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J. Ojijatekha Brant-Sero.

Hamilton. Ont.
1894.

EREch. Sagoeunnaha radatsi. ie ya dou
seraninsen. Yaghtsen deuneh
Kagh nitho ha.

Copied from the Original Engraving Published the 1st May 1766

W. Johnson

THE INDIAN HUNTER.

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from the originals on file in the Secretary of State's Office at Albany

PROCEEDINGS OF COMMISSIONERS FROM 6 PROVINCES MET AT ALBANY ANNO 1754 ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Massachusetts Bay.

William Shirley Esq[r] Captain General and Governor in Chief [L S] in and over his Majesties Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England.

To Samuel Welles, John Chandler, Thomas Hutchinson, Oliver Partridge, and John Worthington Esq[rs]. Greeting

Whereas in pursuance of Letters from the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for Trade and the plantations dated the 28 of August & 19 of September 1753 to the Governor of several of his Majesties plantations in North America a General convention of Commissioners for their Respective Governments is appointed to be held at the City of Albany in the Month of June next for holding an Interview with the Indians of the Five Nations and making them presents on the part of the said Governments usual upon such occasions in order to confirm and Establish their antient attachment to his Majesty and their constant Friendship to his Majesties Subjects on this Continent. And whereas the great and General Court or Assembly of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay aforesaid have elected and appointed you to represent and appear for the said Province at the Convention aforesaid for the purposes above mentioned; as also for entering into Articles of Union and Con federation with the aforesaid Governments for the General Defence of his Majesties Subjects and Interests in North America as well in time of Peace as in war. Now I do by these presents impower and Commissionate you the said Samuel Welles, John Chandler, Thomas Hutchinson, Oliver Partridge, and John Worthington as Commissioners (or any three of You) to appear for and represen the Province of the Massachusetts Bay aforesaid at the proposed Convention of Commissioners, to be held at the City of Albany in the Month of June next then and there to concert, with the Commissioners (from all or any of his Majesties British Governments) that may be there convened, such Measures as may be judged proper for the Purposes afores[d] and to agree upon the same; and

herein you must observe such Instructions as are herewith delivered you, or may from time to time be given you by the Great and General Court or Assembly of this Province.

Given under my hand and the Publick Seal of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay aforesaid the nineteenth Day of April 1754 in the twenty Seventh Year of his Majestys Reign.

W. SHERLEY

By His Excellency's Command
J. Willard Secry. &c
A true copy Att^st

SAMUEL WELLES
JOHN CHANDLER
THOMAS HUTCHINSON
OL^R PARTRIDGE
JOHN WORTHINGTON

Province of New Hampshire } George the Second by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c.

[L S]

To all to whom these Presents shall come Greeting

WHEREAS we have Ordered a Sum of Money to be Issued for for Presents to the Six Nations of Indians and to direct our Governor of New York to hold an Interview with them for delivering those Presents, for Burying the Hatchet and for renewing the Covenant Chain, with them and inasmuch as the Attempts that have been made to withdraw them from our interest appear to us to make a General interview more Particularly Necessary at this time, and that all our Colonys whose Interest and Security is connected with, and depend upon those Indians should be present at, and join in such Interview

Know Ye therefore That we reposing much trust and Confidence in the Integrity and Ability of the Honourable Theodore Atkinson Esq^r. the Hono^ble Richard Wibird Esq^r two of our Council of our said Province, The Hono^ble Meshech Weare Esq^r Speaker of the General Assembly of our said Province, and Henry Scherbourn Jun^r Esq^r. also a Member of our said General Assembly, have by and with the advice of our trusty and well beloved Benning Wentworth Esq^r. our Governor and Commander in Chief

of our Province of New Hampshire aforesaid, named, made, constituted, and appointed And we by these presents name, make, Constitute and Appoint the said Theodore Atkinson Esq^{r} Richard Wibird Esq^{r}. Mesech Weare Esq^{r}. and Henry Sherburne Esq^{r}. our true and undoubted Commissioners hereby giving unto them full power and Authority as well as our special Command to repair to our City of Albany, or other place where the said Interview may be held and carryed on, and there by the whole or the Major part of those of them that shall be present at the said Interview, for us and in our name together with such other Commissioners as shall be Regularly appointed from our other Colonies and provinces in America to attend at the said Interview to agree upon consult and conclude what may be necessary for Establishing a sincer and lastly Friendship and good Harmony with the said Six Nations of Indians, and if necessary, for us and in our Name to sign everything so agreed upon and concluded, and to do, and transact all matters and things which may appertain to the finishing the abovesaid work. In Testimony whereof we have caused the Seal of our said Province of New Hampshire to be hereunto affixed Witness Benning Wentworth Esq^{r}. Our Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Province of New Hampshire in New England this third Day of June 1754 and in the Twenty Seventh Year of our Reign.

B. WENTWORTH

By His Excellencys
Command.
Theodore Atkinson Sec^{y}
Copy Ex^{d} per

THEODORE ATKINSON
R. WIBIRD
MESHECH WEARE
HEN: SHERBURNE Jun^{r}.

CONNECTICUT

(Sigilum Colonie Conecticut ences)

THOMAS FITCH Esq^{r} Governor and Commander in Chief of his Majestys English Coloney of Connecticut in New England in America.

To William Pitkin Roger Wolcot Jun^{r} & Elisha Williams Esquires Greeting.

WHEREAS you are by the General Assembly of said Colony nominated and Appointed to be Commissioners in behalf of said

Colony to meet such Commissioners as are or shall be appointed by his Majesty's other Governments in America, at a General Interview at Albany on the fourteenth day of June next and Join with them in concerting proper Measures for the General Defence and safety of his Majesties Subjects in said Governments and the Indians in Alliance with them against the French and their Indians. Therefore in pursuance of said Act of Assembly, you the said William Pitkin, Roger Wolcot Junr and Elisha Williams Esqrs are Commissioned Authorized and impowered in behalf of this his Majesties Colony of Connecticutt to meet the Commissioners appointed by his Majesties other Governments in America at Albany on the 14th day of June next, and in Concert with such Commissioners from his Majesties other Governments as shall meet there to consult proper Measures for the General defence, and safety of his Majesty's Subjects in said Governments and the Indians in his Alliance against the French, and their Indians; and to use and pursue proper measures in pursuance of your Instructions from the said General Assembly, relateing to the matters aforesaid

Given under my hand and the Publick Seal of the Colony of Connecticutt in Hartford this 30th day of May Anno Regni Regis Georgij 2di Magn: Brittain: &c 27mo Annoq. Domini 1754.

THOMAS FITCH.

By his honours Command.

George Wyllys Secrety

A true Copy Tests. Wm Pitkin, Roger Wolcot Junr
Elisha Williams. Commissioners.

Rhode Island

{ Locus Sigilli } By the Honourable William Green Esqr Governor and Captain General of the English Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation in New England in America.

To Stephen Hopkins, and Martin Howard Junr Esqrs Greeting

Whereas the General Assembly of this Colony have on their parts chosen and appointed you to meet with the Commissioners of the other Governments at Albany on the fourteenth day of this

Instant June and join with them in a Treaty with the Six Nations of Indians in order to Secure the Interest of his Majesty and his good Subjects in those parts.

I do therefore by Virtue of an act of the General Assembly of this Colony, authorise impower and Commissionate You the said Stephen Hopkins and Martin Howard Junr forthwith to repair to Albany aforesaid, and there in behalf of this Colony to meet and join with the other Commissioners in Consulting what Methods are proper to be used, to preserve the Friendship of the aforesaid Six Nations of Indians and their Attachments to the British Interest in America. and also what else may be necessary to prohibit the French and their Allies the Indians, from encroaching on the Lands within the Dominions of his Majesty. And in General as far as the Abilities of this Government will permit, to act in Conjunction with the said Commissioners in every thing necessary, for the good of his Majesties Subjects in those parts, and to Answer as far as we can the Designs of his Majesties Instructions to this Colony communicated to us, by the Earl of Holderness.—

In Testimony whereof I do hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the Colony aforesaid to be hereunto Affixed this Twelfth day of June, One Thousand Seven Hundred and fifty four, and in the twenty Seventh Year of the Reign of his most sacred Majesty George the Second by the Grace of God King of Great Britain &ca

William Greene

By his Honours Command

Tho Ward Secr'y.—A true Copy Exd by Stephen Hopkins

Martin Howard Junr

Pennsylvania ss

George the Second by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the faith and so forth.

To our Trusty and wellbeloved John Penn, Richard Peters, Isaac Norris, and Benjamin Franklin of the City of Philadelphia Esquires Greeting.

Whereas the Honoble James DeLancey Esqr Our Lieut Governor and Commander in Chief of our Province of New-York has

received our Directions to hold an Interview with our loving and good Allies the Six United Nations of Indians at the City of Albany within our said Province for delivering to them our Presents and for renewing the Covenant Chain with them, and has fixed upon the fourteenth day of June Ensuing for this purpose, and it has been usual when an Interview has been held with these Indians for all his Majesties Colonies whose Interest and Security is connected with and depends upon them to join in such Interview, and it appears to us that the present disposition of those Indians and the attempts that Have been made to withdraw them from our Interest do make such a General Interview more particularly Necessary at this time, when the Subjects of the French King have actually marched into, and Erected Forts, and committed Hostilities within the known limits of our Dominions.

Know Ye that reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Loyalty, abilities and prudence We have thought fit to nominate and Appoint you the said John Penn, Richard Peters, Isaac Norris, and Benjamin Franklin and every of you our Commissioners on behalf of our Governor of our Province of Pensylvania aforesaid in Conjunction with our Lieut Governor of New York and with the Commissioners of the other Governments to Treat with the Six united Nations of Indians at Albany, or with their, or any, or every, of their Chiefs or Delegates, and with them to renew, ratify and Confirm the Leagues of amity subsisting between us and the said Nations of Indians and to make them the presents that have been provided for them by the Governor and Assembly of our said Province of Pensylvania, and further to do, Act and Transact, and finally to Conclude and Agree with the Indians aforesaid, all and every other matter and thing which to you shall appear necessary for the Engageing them heartily in our Interest and for frustating any attempts which have been made to withdraw them from it,— As fully and amply to all intents Constructions and purposes, as our Governor of our province of Pensylvania aforesaid might or could do, being personally present, hereby ratifying confirming and holding for firm and Effectual whatsoever you the said John Penn, Richard Peters Isaac Norris and Benjamin Franklin, or any of you shall Lawfully do, in and about the Premises— In Testimony

whereof we have Caused the Great Seal of our said Province to be hereunto Affixed.

Witness JAMES HAMILTON Esq^r^

(by Virtue of a Commission from Thomas Penn and Richard Penn Esqr^s^ true and absolute Proprietors of the said province and with our Royal approbation) Lieu^t^ Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province aforesaid and Counties of New Castle, Kent and Sussex upon Delaware at philadelphia the thirteenth day of May in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and fifty four and in the twenty Seventh of our Reign

A true Copy JAMES HAMILTON

Ex^d^ Richard peters
Is Norris
B. Franklin

MARYLAND

WHEREAS his Majesty has been pleased to order a sum of Money to be issued for presents to the Six Nations of Indians and to direct his Governor of New York to hold an Interview with them for delivering those presents, for Burying the Hatchet and for renewing the Covenant Chain with them and whereas in Obedience to his Majesties pleasure signified to them by the Lords of Trade His Majesties Several Colonies on this Continent have resolved to join in such Interview and have made a Provision for sending each their Commissioner with such presents as have been usual on the like Occasions to the said Indian Nations as a means of securing more effectually their Affections to his Majesty and the Brittish Interest. Now in dutyfull Compliance with his Majesty's Requisition as well as from a Sense of the Importance it must be of to us and the several Neighbouring provinces that those Nations be retained in our Alliance more especially at this time when our Enimies are endeavouring to withdraw them from our Friendship; we have thought fit to Commission you Col^o^ Benjamin Tasker and Major Abraham Barnes fully trusting in your known Abilities and approved Honour to represent this Province at the Interview appointed to be held at Albany the 14^th^ of June next and then and there to renew the Covenant Chain and enter into a League

of Amity with the said Indian Nations and you shall deliver to them (with such Speeches as have been used on Similar Occasions) a present as from his Majesties dutyfull Subjects of this province of Maryland in Money or Goods as to you shall appear most proper to the value of Five Hundred Pounds Currant Money of this Province, which Money you will receive from the Treasurer of the Western Shore and for the better conducting yourselves in Regard to the manner and form of the Treaty to be entered into at Albany with the said Six Allied Nations. You shall refer yourselves for Directions To the Hono^{ble} James DeLancey Esq^{r} his Majesty's Lieu^{t} Governor of New York.

And whereas I have had intimation that the Commissioners from the several Neighbouring Colonies will receive Instructions from their respective Governments to concert Measures with the Commiss^{rs} from the other Provinces for the better Securing these Indians for the future in our Alliance and preventing their being Alienated from our Intrest by the Artifices or insinuations of our Enemy, as well as for the more easy defence of his Majesties Dominions on this Continent, You shall if any Propositions of that nature are made by the Commissioners in behalf of their Respective Governments let them know that this Province is also disposed to contribute to the Execution of any General Scheme to promote such desirable Ends, and you will take care to observe well what Propositions shall or may be made concerning such General Schemes and commit the Substance thereof to writing for my Information and to be laid before the General Assembly for their Consideration—But you are to understand that you are not impowered to Stipulate or engage that this Province will advance any sum of Money or number of Men towards erecting Forts or Garrissoning them, or to any such purposes. But you shall only well observe what proposals are made by the other Com^{rs} issioners and endeavour to Learn how far the Execution of what they may propose can be Necessary or usefu^{ll}, and consider well the Reasonableness of any such propositions and inform yourselves whether the other Commissioners are Authorized to Stipulate and agree thereon and at your return you shall inform me of these several Particulars and any other things that may Possibly occur

to your notice ; That I may not be Ignorant after what manner we can best contribute to the success of any such Scheme as shall be proposed at the aforesaid Interview for the defence or utility of his Majesties Dominions and Subjects.

Annapolis May 30th 1754

Horo Sharpe

A true Copy Examined
By Benja Tasker Junr
A Barnes.

Albany the 19th June 1754

Proceedings *of the Congress held at Albany by the Honoble James De Lancey Esqr Lieut Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of New York and the Commissioners of the Several provinces now met in this City.*

At a meeting in the Court House at Albany on Wednesday the 19 h June 1754. A M.

Present

The Honoble the Lieutenant Govr of New York

Joseph Murray
William Johnson
John Chambers
William Smith
Esqrs of His
Majesties Council
of this Province

Samuel Welles
John Chandler
Oliver Partridge
John Worthington
Esqrs
Commissioners for
Massachusetts Bay

Theodore Atkinson
Richard Wibird
Meshec Weare
Henry Sherburn Junr
Esquires
Commissioners for His
Majesties Province
of New Hampshire

William Pitkin
Roger Wolcott
Elisha Williams
Esqrs
Commissioners for the Colony
of Connecticutt

Stephen Hopkins &
Martin Howard Junr
Esqrs
Commissioners for the Colony
of Rhode Island

John Penn
Richard Peters
Isaac Norris
Benjamin Franklin
Esqrs
Commissioners for the
Government of Pensylvania

Benjamin Tasker &
Abraham Barnes
Esqrs
Commissioners for the Government
of Maryland

His Honour the Lieut Governor of New York having yesterday directed Mr Banyar Deputy Secretary of the said province to wait upon the Commissioners of the Several Provinces above named, to Acquaint them that his honour desired they would meet him in Council in the City Hall of Albany this Morning in Order to produce their powers and proceed upon Business

The said Commissioners being now Accordingly met, took their Seats and produced their respective Commissions which were read.

His Honour then produced a Letter from the Right Honourable the Lords of Trade bearing date the 18th of Septr last out of which a Paragraph was read.

Afterwards were read, Two Minutes of the proceedings of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs in this City dated the 15th & 18th Inst, also a Remonstrance from the Oswego Traders to his Honour

It was recommended as the first step necessary to be taken at this Congress, that the Commissioners should consider of the several matters they may judge proper to be proposed to the Indians at the intended interview with them, and to prepare the Speech to be made on that occasion, for which purpose his Honour acquainted the Commissioners he would direct the Secretary or Agent for Indian Affairs to attend them with the Records of that Office. And the Commissioners of Indian Affairs to meet together as often as there should be Occasion, in order that they might give them all the Information relative to Indian Affairs.

At a Meeting in the Court House at Albany on Wednesday the 19th June 1754 P. M.

Present

Joseph Murray
William Johnson
John Chambers
William Smith
Esqrs
of his Majesties Council
of this Province

Samuel Welles
John Chandler
Oliver Partridge
John Worthington
Esqrs
Commissioners for
Massachusett Bay

Theodore Atkinson
Richard Wibird
Meshec Weare
Henry Sherburn Junr
Esqrs
Commissioners for His
Majesties Province of
New Hampshire

William Pitkin
Roger Wolcott
Elisha Williams
Esqrs
Commissioners for the Colony
of Connecticut

Stephen Hopkins &
Martin Howard Junr
Esqrs
Commissioners for the Colony
of Rhode Island

John Penn
Richard Peters
Isaac Norris
Benjamin Franklin
Esqrs
Commissioners for the
Governmt of Pennsylvania

Benjamin Tasker &
Abraham Barnes
Esqrs
Commissioners for the
Governmt of Mary Land

The Board proceeded to take into Consideration the Matters recommended by his Honour in the Morning——The whole Letter from the Lords of Trade was read and is as follows

Whitehall Septr 18th 1753.

Sr A few days after you sailed from Portsmouth We received a Letter from Mr Clinton, inclosing Minutes of the proceedings between him & a Deputation of the Mohawk Indians, at Fort George in the City of New York in June last, with the Journals of the Assembly then Sitting

You will without doubt upon your arrival be fully informed of the particular Circumstances of this Affair, the resentment expressed by the Indians And the Abrupt and hasty manner in which they went away ; and tho' from the Confidence we have of your Vigilant Attention to whatever may Concern Your Government, We are persuaded you will not have failed to have taken every Necessary and prudent Measure to Obviate the fatal Consequences which might Attend this Affair, Yet we think it no less our Duty to embrace the first Opportunity of writing our Sentiments to you upon it and of pointing out to you what appears to us necessary to be done.

When we Consider of how great Consequence the Friendship and Alliance of the Six Nations is to all His Majesties Colonies and Plantations in America in General as well as to New York in particular, When we consider that this Friendship and Alliance is only to be gained and preserved by making presents to them at proper times and upon proper Occasions, and by an inviolable Observance of all our Engagements with them, And when we recollect the Attempts which have lately been made to withdraw them from the British Interest, We cannot but be greatly concerned and Surprized, that the Province of New York should have been so inattentive to the General Interest of his Majesties Subjects in America, as well as to their own Particular Security, as to have given Occasion to the Complaints made by the Indians; But we are still more Surprized at the manner in which these Complaints were received. The Dissatisfactory answers given to the Indians, and at their being Suffered to depart, (tho' the Assembly was then sitting) without any Measures taken to bring them to temper or to redress their Complaints

This being the light in which we see this Affair, We think it for his Majesties Service that you should take the very first opportunity of representing to the Council and Assembly in the Strongest manner of how great Importance it is to the province of New York to preserve the Friendship and Affection of the Indians and the fatal Consequences which must inevitably follow from a Neglect of them, that you should press them to join with and support you in every measure you shall find it necessary to pursue, in Order to

fix them on the British Interest, more especially by making proper Provision for presents for them, which joined to the presents Allowed by his Majesty, and which you will receive by this Conveyance, may serve to facilitate this great End, and to wipe away all Remembrance of that neglect the Indians now complain of. As a speedy Interview with the Indians is from their present Disposition become the more necessary You will no doubt think it proper to Advise with the Council as to the time and place of Meeting the Indians, in which points We trust you will have a due regard to their Convenience and as it Appears from their Complaints, that Albany which has been the usual place of Meeting is Obnoxious to them, You will if you find Sufficient Foundation for this Complaint, appoint some other place you shall think more for their Ease and Satisfaction, And we observe from a Report of the Council and Assembly to Mr Clinton that Onondaga is proposed as the most proper place. We likewise hope that in the Choice of the Persons who are to attend and Assist you at this Interview, you will have a regard to such as are best Acquainted with the Indians and their Affairs, and not Obnoxious to them; And as a great Deal depends upon the Intepreter, We desire you will be particularly carefull to appoint such as are well acquainted with the Indian Language and Men of Ability and Integrity.

We hope that the Treats of the Mohawk Indians when they left New York have not been carried into Execution, but think it of Absolute Necessity in Order to Abuiate any ill Consequences which might attend these Threats That some person of Character and discretion, should be immediately sent amongst the Indians to acquaint them of your Arrival, Of the presents his Majesty has Ordered to be delivered to them, and of your Intention of holding an Interview with them, for burying the Hatchet and renewing the Covenant Chain; that this person should be carefully instructed to endeavour to remove any prejudices which the Six Nations may have imbibed—from the Representations of the Mohawks, to Obviate the ill Effects which would attend a General discontent amongst them at so Critical a Conjuncture, and to put them upon their Guard against any attempts which may be made to withdraw them from his Majesties Interest; And that nothing may be wanting to Convince the Indians of the Sincerity of our Intentions, You will

do well to Examine into the Complaints they have made of being defrauded of their Lands, to take all proper and legal Methods to redress their Complaints, and to gratify them by Reasonable purchachases, or in such other matter as you shall find most proper and Agreeable to them, for such lands as have been Unwarrantably taken from them, or for such other as they may have a desire to dispose of; And we recommend it to you to be particularly carefull for the future that you do not make Grants to any Persons Whatsoever of Lands purchased by them of the Indians upon their own Accounts. Such practices have been found in a Neighboring Government to be attended with Great Mischief and Inconvenience; But when the Indians are disposed to sell any of their Lands, the Purchase ought to be made in his Majesty's Name and at the Publick Charge.

As we find it has been usual upon former Occasions when an Interview has been held with the Indians for the other Neighbouring Governments in Alliance with them to send Commissioners to be joined with those of New York, And as the present weavering Disposition of the Indians equally Effects the other Provinces, We have wrote to the Governor of Virginia, Pensylvania, Maryland, New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay and New Jersey, desiring them to represent to their respective Assemblys the Utility and necessity of this Measure and to Urge them to make proper provision for it; And therefore it will be necessary that when you have Setiled the Time and place of Meeting, you should give them early notice of it; And this leads us to recommend one thing more to Your Attention, and that is to take care that all the Provinces be (if practicable) comprized in one General Treaty to be made in his Majesties name, it appearing to us that the Practice of each Province making a Separate Treaty for itself in its own Name is very improper and may be attended with great inconvenience to his Majesties Service

So we bid you heartily farewell and are

Your very loving Friends & Humble Servants

DUNK HALIFAX

To Sr Danvers Osborn Govr of New York — J. GRENVILLE

Albany June 1754 — DUPPLIN

a true Copy of the Original Examd by Gw. Banyar D. Secrey

And also were read the following papers from the Commissioners of Indian Affairs at Albany. (viz)

Albany 15th of June 1754

At a Meeting of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs at Mr Lutteridges.

PRESENT

Coll° Myndert Schuyler
Robert Saunders Esq^r } Mayor of the City
Sybt Van Schaak Recorder
Capt Hubert Marshall Commandr of the Fort.
Cornelius Cuyler
John Beekman
John Renselaer
Jacob Conradt Ten Eyck
Peter Winne
} Esq^rs

Peter Wraxall Secretary.

His Honour the Lieut Governor The Honourable James De Lancey Esq^r having directed Coll° Myndert Schuyler to convene the Commissioners of Indian Affairs that they might consult together if they had any matters in particular to recommend to his Honour upon the approaching Interview with the Six Nations.

In Consequence hereof the Commissioners are of Opinion, that the Six Nations who now live dispersed & Confused, should in the most earnest manner be exhorted to unite and dwell together in their respective Castles, And that the Mohawk Nation should live in one Castle only.

That his honour apply to the Onondaga Indians in particular to direct and exhort them to live together in one Castle according to their Antient and prudent Custom, and to cause all their friends and Relations wheresoever dispersed to join them, particularly those who have Separated themselves and live at present at Sweegassie where the French have lately Fortified, have a Garrison and where a French Missionary constantly resides in order to draw them off from our Alliance. At this Sweegassie the French have lately made a Settlement of Indians belonging to the Six Nations of which the greatest part are from Onondaga & Cayouge.

That whereas the French have long been endeavoring to prevail on the Senecas to come and Settle at Irondequat in order to have them nearer to their Settlements the more easily to Effect their

design of debauching them from the Brittish Interest; The Commissioners are of Opinion that his Honour should insist on the Sennecas, who at present live very remote from one another, to make a General Castle near the Mouth of the Senneca River, where they have already began to Build a New Castle. This point has been Several times recommended to them by former Governors and which they have faithfully promised to do, but have not hitherto effected.

The Commissioners are of Opinion that the most effectual method to restrain and secure the Six Nations to the British Interest, will be, to Build two Forts, One on the Onondaga, the other in the Sennecas Country and that each Fort be Supplyed with a proper Missionary.

They are further of Opinion that the Carrying and Selling Rum in the Castles of the Six Nations is of the most pernicious Consequence to the Public Interest of this Colony in particular and to the British Interest in General with respect to our Indian Connexions.

The Commissioners are also of Opinion that no Frenchman upon any pretence whatsoever, should be Suffered to reside or Trade amongst the Six Nations, And that the said Six Nations should be directed to send those Frenchmen away who now Trade or reside amongst them, and to warn them not to return—Those French Emissarys having always been of fatal Consequence to the British Interest & amongst the Six Nations

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Albany 18th June 1754.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs at the house of Robt Lutteridge

PRESENT

Peter Winne, Sybrant Van Shaik Recorder
Myndert Schuyler
John Beekman
Jacob Coent Ten Eyck
} Esqrs

Peter Wraxall Secretary.

His Honour the Lieut Governor having sent to Collo Myndert Schuyler to know what he should do with regard to the River

Indians at the approaching Interview—Coll° Schuyler thought proper to convene the Commissioners that they might Answer His Honour upon this point.

They are of Opinion that after The Six Nations arrive in Town it will be time enough to send a Message to the said River Indians.

Whereas divers complaints have been made to the Commissioners of Indian Affairs that the Indians at Conoghoheere Castle do forcibly take Rum from the Oswego Traders in their passage by the said Castle. And also that the Oneida Indians oblige the Traders to let them carry their Goods over the carrying place, and to pay them double and sometimes, more than double the Customary price which the Germans are ready and Willing to take. It is the Opinion therefore of this Board that his Honour be pleased at the Approaching Interview to represent the injustice of those proceedings to the Six Nations and that it is a breach of their promises solemnly made, and a violation of their Engagements entered into and frequently renewed with former Governors.

A true Copy from the Records of Indian Affairs

Peter Wraxall Secretary.

A Remonstrance was then Read to the Board, from the Oswego Traders to his honour the Lieu^t^ Governor of New York of which the following is a Copy

To his Honour James De Lancey Esquire Lieu^t^ Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of New York &c. &c. &c.

We the Traders (or Handlers) to Oswego most humbly beg leave to remonstrate to your Honour the many hazzards and Difficulties We are Subject to in our passage thither from the ill treatment we meet with from the Indians (i e) in passing the Mohawks and Canajohary Castles, they Board our Battoes with Axes knives &c and by force take what Rum they think proper hooping and yelping as if they had Gloried in their depradations and threatening Murder to any that oppose them: And on our Arrival at the great carrying place, The Oneida Indians force our Goods from us at pleasure to carry over, and not content with making us pay a most exorbitant price for each Freight but rob us

of our Rum, Stores and other Goods with a great deal of invective threatening language, and are generally so Numerous that we are Obliged to Submit to those impositions or run the risk of being Murdered and Robbed of every thing we have ; And to put their Schemes the better in Execution they fore away the High Germans who generally attend with their Horses, that we may be under a Necessity of employing them and paying whatever they please to demand.

We therefore humbly pray your Honour to take these our most severe Grievances under due consideration and fall upon such methods to redress them as in your great wisdom shall seem most Expedient. Accept of our most fervent Prayers for your Welfare and Prosperity as we ever remain with all due Defference, Gratitude and Esteem

Sir your Honours most Dutyfull &
most Humble Servants

Oswego June 1st 1754.

To which 47 Several Names were Signed.

The following Gentlemen were appointed a Committee to prepare the Draught of a General Speech to be made by his Honour to the Indians namely

William Johnson
Samuel Welles
Theodore Atkinson
Elisha Williams } Esqrs
Martin Howard Jun | to whom were delivered
Isaac Norris | the aforesaid Papers.
Benja Tasker Jun

Adjourned till to Morrow Morning

At a Meeting at the Court House in Albany
on Thursday the 20th June 1754 A M.

PRESENT

His Honour and the aforesaid Council of New York and Several of the Commissioners.

The Committee appointed Yesterday to prepare a Draught of a General Speech to be made to the Indians not being ready to make their Report, the Board Adjourned till to Morrow Morning.

At a Meeting in the Court House at Albany
on Fryday the 21st June 1754 A. M.

PRESENT

His Honour the Lieut Governor the Council of New York aforesaid All the Commissioners, And Thomas Hutchinson Esqr one of the Commissioners of Massachusetts Bay.

It was proposed by the Governor that to avoid all disputes about the precedency of the Colonies They should be named in the Minutes according to their Situation from North to South. which was agreed to.

Peter Wraxall Esqr was Chosen Secretary to this Board.

The Committee delivered in their Draught of the General Speech which was read thro' and afterwards Paragraph by Paragraph. Objections were made to some parts. The Board not coming to any conclusion on the same They adjourned till to Morrow Morning.

At a Meeting in the Court House at Albany
on Saturday the 22d June 1754. A. M.

PRESENT

The Council of New York aforesaid, and all the Commissioners Except John Chandler Esquire one of the Commissioners for Massachusetts Bay.

The Consideration of the Draught of the General Speech was resumed and one being agreed upon, Mr Hutchinson and Mr Peters were desired to waite upon the Lieut Governor with the same. Adjourned to Monday Morning

At a Meeting in the Court House at Albany
on Monday the 24th June 1754. A. M.

PRESENT

The Council of New York aforesaid
and all the Commissioners

A motion was made that the Thanks of this Board be given to the Revd Mr Peters one of the Commissioners for Pensylvania for his Sermon preached Yesterday, and that he be desired to suffer the same to be printed. Which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr Chambers and Mr Peters were desired to waite upon his Honour to request him to Administer an Oath to Mr Wraxall for the due and faithfull discharge of his Office of Secretary to this Board. Adjourned to Three aClock this afternoon.

At a Meeting as aforesaid Monday afternoon the 24th June 1754.

Present

The Honoble The Lieut Govenor. And the Council aforesaid of the Province of New York. And all the Commissioners

Mr Chambers and Mr Peters Reported to the Board that Mr Wraxall had been Swore into his Office by his Honour conformable to their desire in the Morning

A motion was made, That the Commissioners deliver their Opinion, whether a Union of all the Colonies is not at present absolutely necessary for their Security and defence.

The Question was accordingly put, and it passed in the affirmative Unanimously.

His Honour the Lieut Governor made a proposal as a Branch of Indian Affairs under the Consideration of this Board; to build two Forts in the Indian Country to protect them, their Wives and Children, as the best Expedient to secure their Fidelity to his Majesty.

Which proposal The Board determined to proceed upon, after they had considered some method of effecting the Union between the Colonies.

On a motion that a Committee be appointed to prepare and Receive Plans or Schemes for the Union of the Colonies & to digest them into one General Plan for the Inspection of this Board

Resolved That each Government choose One of their own number to be of that Committee.

Accordingly were appointed.

Thomas Hutchinson	Esqr for Massachusets Bay
Theodore Atkinson	Esqr for New Hampshire
William Pitkin	Esqr for Connecticut
Stephen Hopkins	Esqr for Rhode Island
Benja Franklin	Esqr for Pensylvania
Benja Tasker	Esqr for Maryland

It was left to his Honour to appoint one of his Majesties Council for the Government of New York and he named William Smith Esq[r] Adjourned till to Morrow Morning at 11 oClock.

At a Meeting in the Court House at Albany
on Tuesday the 25th June 1754 A. M.

PRESENT

Joseph Murray, William Johnson & John Chambers Esq[rs] of the Council of New York.

Samuel Welles, John Chandler, Oliver Partridge & John Worthington } Esq[rs] Commissioners for Massachusetts Bay.

Richard Wibard, Meseach . . Weare, Henry Sherburne } Esq[rs] Commissioners for New Hampshire.

Roger Wolcott, Elisha Williams } Esq[rs] Commissioners for Connecticut.

Martin Howard Esq[r] a Commissioner from Rhode Island.

John Penn, Isaac Norris } Esq[rs] Commissioners for Pensylvania.

Abraham Barnes Esq[r] a Commissioner for Maryland.

The Draught of the General Speech not being returned to the Board from his Honour the Lieu[t] Governor of New York.

Adjourned to 5 a Clock this afternoon.

At a Meeting as aforesaid Tuesday
the 25[th] June 1754 P. M.

PRESENT

All the Gentlemen of the Council of New York & all the Commissioners.

M[r] Murray delivered to the Board for their Approbation His Honours Alterations and additions to the draught of the Speech presented to his Honour by M[r] Hutchinson and M[r] Peters the 22[d] Inst. which were read to the Board by the Secretary and the further Consideration thereof was Deferred till to Morrow Morning.

Adjourned till 11 oClock to Morrow Morning.

At a Meeting in the Court House at
Albany on Wednesday the 26 June 1754 A. M.

PRESENT

William Johnson & John Chambers Esq[rs]
of the Council of New York.

Samuel Welles, John Chambers, Thomas Hutchinson, & Oliver Partridge Esq[rs] Commiss[rs] for Massachusetts Bay.

William Pitkin, Roger Wolcott, & Elisha Williams Esq[rs] Commissioners for Conneticutt.

Martin Howard Jun[r] Esq[r] Commissioner for Rhode Island

The Draught of the General Speech to the Six Nations was further Debated, but not being fully concluded upon.

The Board adjourned till 10 a Clock to morrow Morning

At a Meeting in the Court House at
Albany on Thursday the 27[th] June 1754. A. M.

PEESENT

The Four Gentlemen of the Council of New York & all the Commissioners.

The Draught of the General Speech was further debated and not being fully concluded upon the Board

Adjourned till 5 a Clock this afternoon.

At a Meeting at the Court House in Albany
on Thursday the 27 June 1754 P. M.

PRESENT

The Four Gentlemen of the Council of New York & all the Commissioners

A Motion was made, that the Commissions or Powers from the Several Governments should be made part of the Records of this Congress

It was unanimously agreed to and ordered to be prefixed to these Records.

The Draught of the General Speech was Settled, Read and unanimously approved of, and is as follows.

BRETHREN

I have invited you here by the Command of the Great King our Common Father, to Receive a present from him, and in his name to renew the Antient Treaty between this and all his

other Governments and you our Brethren; And I have the pleasure to tell you that by his Special Order, there are now present Commissioners from Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island Pensylvania and Maryland.

Virginia and Carolina likewise desire to be considered as present, altho' some great affairs which those Governments are engaged in, have prevented their sending Commissioners. We are glad to see our Brethren here in health and heartily bid you welcome. A Belt

BRETHREN

We Condole your and our Loss in the Death of some of your People, since the last Interview in this Place. We wipe away all Tears from your Eyes, and take away Sorry from your Hearts, that you may Speak freely. Three Strings of Wampum

BRETHREN

We come to Strengthen and Brighten the Chain of Friendship It gives us great Satisfaction that you have lately added two Links to the Chain. The Shanchadaradighroones and the Tedderighroones, As it will always give us pleasure to see your Strength increased. This Chain hath remained firm and unbroken from the beginning. This Belt will represent to you our Disposition to preserve it Strong and Bright so long as the Sun and Moon shall endure, and in the name of the Great King our Father, And in the behalf of all his Majesties Colonies, We now Solemnly renew, brighten and Strengthen the antient Covenant Chain, and promise to keep the same Inviolable and Free from Rust. And We Expect the like Confirmation & assurance on your part. A Chain Belt

His Honour the Lieut Governor explained this Chain Belt to them in the following manner.

BRETHREN

This Represents the King our Common Father, This Line Represents his arms Extended, embracing all us the English and all the Six Nations, These represent the Colonies which are here present and those who desire to be thought present, These represent the Six Nations and there is a space left to draw in the other Indians, and There in the Middle is the line represented which draws us all in under the King our Common Father.

The foregoing Explanation having been added to the general Speech by his Honour at his delivery of it, doth not appear in the proceedings of the Congress, But stands in the Records of Indian Affairs and is therefore supplyed in this manner by

PETER WRAXALL Secretary
for Indian Affairs

BRETHEREN

We are informed that you now live dispersed from each other, contrary to the Antient and prudent Custom of your forefathers. And as you are by this means exposed to the attempts of your Enemies. We therefore in the most earnest manner recommend to and expect it from you, for your own safety, to collect yourselves together and dwell in your National Castles. We desire you Brethren of the Onondaga Nation in particular, to call in your Friends and Relations to join you, especially those of your Nation who now live at Osweegachie, A Brave people separated from each other may easily fall a Sacrifice, Whereas united they may live secure and uninjured A Belt

BRETHEREN

We have something to say to you of great Importance. The Treatys subsisting between us and you our Brethren, as well as the Great Affection we bear towards you, Oblige us to mention it. The French profess to be in perfect Friendship with us as well as you, Notwithstanding this, they are making continual Incroachments upon us both: They have lately done so in the most insulting manner both to the Northward and Westward. Your Fathers by their valour above One hundred Years ago, gained a considerable Country, which they Afterwards of their own Accord put under the protection of the King of Great Britain. The French are endeavouring to possess themselves of this whole Country, altho' they have made the most Express Treaties with the English to the contrary.

BRETHEREN It appears to us that these Measures of the French must necessarily soon interrupt and destroy all Trade and Intercourse between the English and the several Indian Nations on the Continent, and will Block up and Obstruct, the Great Roads

which have hitherto lain open between you and your Allies and Friends who live at a distance.

We want to know whether these things appear to you in the same light as they do to us, or whether the French taking possession of the Lands in your Country, and building Forts between the Lakes Erie and the River Ohio, be done with your Consent or Approbation. A large Belt

Bretheren

Open your Hearts to us, deal with us as Bretheren, we are ready to consult with you how to Scatter these Clouds that hang over us. This is a matter of so great weight, that we think it best to defer mentioning any other Affair till you have considered this, least they should take away part of that attention which is necessary on so extraordinary an Occasion A Belt

Adjourned till to morrow Morning at 11 a Clock

At a Meeting in the Court House
Albany on Fryday the 28 June 1754. A. M.

Present

John Chandler
Oliver Partridge
&
John Worthington
Esq^rs
Commiss^rs for Massachusets Bay

Roger Wolcott &
Elisha Williams
Esq^rs
Commissioners
for
Connecticut

Richard Wibird
Meseke Weare
&
Henry Sherburne
Esq^rs
Commiss^rs for New Hampshire

Martin Howard Jun^r Esq^r a Commissioner for Rhode Island John Penn Esq^r one of the Commiss^rs for Pensylvania.

The Board Adjourned till 5 a Clock this Afternoon

At a Meeting &c Fryday
Afternoon 28 June 1754.

PRESENT

The 4 Gentlemen of the Council of New York.
All the Commissioners from Massachusetts Bay
All the Commissioners from New Hampshire
All the Commissioners from Connecticut
Stephen Hopkins Esq[r] one of the Commiss[rs] from Rhode Island
John Penn & Benj[a] Franklin } Esq[rs] Commiss[rs] from Pensylvania
Benj[a] Tasker Jun[r] Esq[r] one of the Commiss[rs] from Maryland

The Committee appointed the 24 Inst to prepare and receive plans or Schemes for the Union of the Colonies, presented short Hints of a Scheme for that purpose, of which Copies were taken by the Commissioners of the respective Provinces

Adjourned till to Morrow Morning at 9 a Clock

At a Meeting at the Court House in Albany
on Saturday the 29 June 1754. A. M.

PRESENT

William Smith Esq[r] one of the Council of New York &
All the Commissioners.

His Honour the Lieu[t] Governor of New York having given Notice to this Board that he was going to Speak to the Indians.

The Board Adjourned till 5 aClock this afternoon, & Attended His Honour whilst he delivered the Speech.

At a Meeting in the Court House at Albany
on Saturday the 29 June 1754. P. M.

PRESENT

Joseph Murray, John Chambers & William Smith } Esq[rs] of the Council of New York
All the Commissioners from Massachusetts Bay.
Theodore Atkinson & Richard Wibird Esq[rs] } All the Commissioners from Connecticut
The Commissioners from Rhode Island
All the Commissioners from Pennsylvania
The Commissioners from Maryland
Commissioners for New Hampshire

The Board being informed that a Considerable Number of Indians from Stockbridge, being of the Nation known by the Name of the River Indians were in Town; A Motion was made that his Honour the Lieut Governour might be acquainted with the Circumstances of said Indians and desired to give Orders for their Support

The said Motion was agreed to, And Mr Welles and Mr Franklin were appointed to waite on his Honour Accordingly.

The hints of a Scheme for the Union of the Colonies were debated on but came to no Conclusion.

Adjourned to Monday Morning at 9 aClock.

At a Meeting at the Court House at Albany
on Monday the 1 July 1754. A. M.

PRESENT

The Lieut Governor & the four Gentlemen of the Council of New York

All the Commissioners for Massachusetts Bay Except John Chandler Esqr

Theodore Atkinson & Henry Sherbourne } Esqrs Commissioners for New Hampshire

The Commissioners for Connecticutt

The Commissioners for Rhode Island

All the Commissioners for Pennsylvania

The Commissioners for MaryLand.

Mr Franklin Reported to the Board, that he had with Mr Welles (Mr Welles was not then present) waited on the Lieut Governor and delivered the Message from the Board of Saturday last relating to the River Indians, living near Stockbridge, and that his honour was pleased to Answer, that he had not sent for those Indians, that he had consulted his Council and enquired of the Commissioners of Indian affairs and was Informed that it had never been usual to afford Subsistance to those Indians at any Treaty in Albany; that it was agreat expence to New York to Maintain the other Indians, that these properly belonged to Massachusetts Bay Governmt and it appeared to him that they should be Supported by that Government.

Upon a Motion the Records of Indian Affairs for the Province of New York were sent for, and it appeared that the River Indians have usually been present at the Treaties with the Six Nations, & that a Speech has always been made to said River Indians, & it was moved to the Lieu[t] Governor of New York that he would now speak to them in the name of the Commissioners from the Several Colonies, and also give Orders for their Support. His Honour agreed to the purposals of Speaking to them, and offered to give Orders for their Support, but was pleased to say that he expected the Commissioners for the Several Provinces would Contribute to the Charge of it.

His Honour delivered to the Board Copys of Two Minutes of Council which are as follow.

At a Council held in the City of Albany
the 27 June 1754. P. M.

PRESENT

The Hono[ble] James De Lancey Esq[r] Lieu[t] Governor &C[a]
M[r] Murray — M[r] Chambers
Coll[o] Johnson — M[r] Smith

His Honour being informed by the Indian Interpreter that the lower Castle of the Mohawk Indians now in this City, had some Bussiness to lay before him, and desired to be admitted to an Audience, Appointed them to attend at 4 aClock this Afternoon in Council, and they attending Accordingly were introduced with the Interpreter.

The Governor told them he was very glad to see them. That he was now Met in Council and ready to hear what they had to say

Whereupon Canadagaia their Speaker Addressing himself to his Honour spoke as follow.

BROTHER

We are here this Day by Gods will and your Honours Order to which place you have led us as it were by the hand. This is our Old Meeting place, Where if we have any Grievances We can lay them Open. You are lately come to the Administratioin and we are glad to see you to lay our Complaints before you. We take it very kind you have given us this Opportunity to unfold our minds and will now proceed to declare our Grievances.

Brother

We shall now open our Minds, And we beg you will take time to consider what we shall say and not give us too heasty an Answer or in two or three Words, and then turn your back upon us. As you are a New Governor We beg you will treat us tenderly and not as the former Governor did, who turned his Back upon us before we knew he intended to depart, so that We had no Opportunity to finish our Business with him. The reason we desire you would Treat us in this Tender manner, is because this is the place where we are to expect a Redress of our Grievances and we hope all things will be so Settled that we may part good Friends.

Brother

We told you a little while ago that we had an Uneasiness on our minds and we shall now tell you what it is. It is Concerning our land. We understand that there are Writings for all our Lands so that we shall have none left but the very Spot we live upon, and hardly that. We have examined amongst the Elderly People who are now present if they have sold any of it, who deny that they ever have. And we earnestly desire you will take this into Consideration, which will give us great Satisfaction, and convince us that you have a Friendship for us. We dont complain of those who have honestly Bought the Land, they possess, or those to whom we have given any but to some who have taken more than we have given them. We find we are very poor; We thought we had yet Land round about us, but it is said there are writings for it all. It is one Condition of the Ancient Covenant Chain, that if there be any uneasiness on either side or any Request to be made, that they shall be considered with a Brotherly regard. And we hope you will fulfill this Condition on your side, as we shall always be ready to do on Ours. We have embraced this Opportunity of unbosoming ourselves to You with regard to our Castle, and we are well assured that the other Castle of the Mohawks have Complaints of the same Nature to make when they come down. We have now declared our own Grievances and the Canajoharys will declare theirs, but that we shall leave to them. By this Belt we desire you to consider what we have said,

and by the same we inform you that the Five Nations have Something to say to you before you speak to them

Gave a Belt

The Governor said

You have now unbosomed Yourselves to me. And desire I would seriously consider of what you have said and not give you a hasty Answer.

I will consider of it seriously and you shall always find me ready to redress any of your Grievances as far as it may be in my Power. But your Complaints are General. I must therefore desire You to tell me where those Lands lye and the Names of the Persons of whom you Complain

To which their Speaker answered.

Brother

We are told a large Tract of Land has been taken up called Kayadarosseras beginning at the half Moon and so up along Hudsons River to the third Fall and thence to the Cacknawaga or Canada Creek which is about 4 or 5 Miles above the Mohawks; Which upon enquiry among our Old Men We cannot find was ever Sold; And as to the particular Persons many of them live in this town, but there are so great a Number we cannot name them.

The Governor said,

I will send for some of the patentees or Persons Claiming that Land and hear what they have to say and Consider the Matter and give you an Answer before you leave this place. It is agreeable to justice to hear both parties before a Judgment is given. And to Manyfest my Friendship for you, I will do you all the Justice in my power.

A true Copy Exam^{d}

By Gw. Banyar Dy C. of the Council

At a Council held in the City of Albany
the 28 June 1754.

PRESENT

The Honoble James Delancey Esqr Lieut Governor &c.
Mr Murray
Collo Johnson
Mr Chambers
Mr Smith

His Honour being informed that the Cannajohary or the upper Castle of the Mohawk Indians, and Several Sachems of each of the other five nations, attended without, and desired to speak to him, they were introduced with the Interpreter.

Hendrick their Speaker spoke as follows.

BROTHER

We had a Message from you sometime ago to meet you at this Place Where the Fire Burns; We of Conajohary met the Messenger you sent with a Letter, at Collo Johnsons and as soon as we received it, came down running, And the 6 Nations are now here Compleat.

The Governor then said.

BRETHEREN of the Six Nations, you are Welcome; I take this Opportunity now you are altogether to condole the Loss in the Death of your Friends and Relations, since you last met here, And with this String of Wampum, I wipe away your Tears and take Sorrow from your Hearts, that you may open your minds and speak freely A String of Wampum.

Hendrick replyed.

BROTHER

We thank you for condoling our loss and for wiping away our Tears that we may speak freely: And as we do not doubt but you have lost some of your great Men and Friends, We give you this string of Condolence in return, that it may remove your Sorrow and that we may both speak freely. Gave a String

Then Hendrick addressing himself to the Six Nations said, That last Year he attended Colo Johnson to Onondaga to do Service to the King and their People. That Colo Johnson told them a new Governor was expected soon, and then they would have an

Opportunity of seeing him at Albany, and laying their grievances before him. That the new Governor arrived soon after and Scarcely had they heard of his arrival but they had an account of his Death. And that now he was glad to see his Honour to whom he would declare his Greviances, And then proceeded.

Brother

We thought you would wonder why we of Canajohary staid so long. We shall now give you the reason. Last Summer We of Connajohary were down at New York to make our Complaints, And we then thought the Covenant Chain was broken because we were neglected; And when you neglect Business the French take Advantage of it, for they are never quiet.

It seemed to us that the Governor had turned his Back upon the Five Nations, as if they were no more, Whereas the French are doing all in their Power to draw us over to them.

We told the Governor last Summer we blamed him for the Neglect of the Five Nations, and at the same time we told him, The French were drawing the Five Nations away to Osweegachie, owing to that Neglect which might have been prevented if proper use had been made of that Warning, but now we are Affraid it is to late. We Remember how it was in former times when we were a Strong and powerful People. Col° Schuyler used frequently to come amongst us, and by this Meanes we were kept together.

Brother

We the Mohawks are in very difficult Circumstances and are blamed for things behind our Backs which we dont deserve. Last Summer when we went up with Col° Johnson to Onondaga and he made his Speech to the 5 Nations, the five Nations said they liked the Speech very well, but that the Mohawks had made it. We are looked upon by the other Nations as Col° Johnson's Councellors and Supposed to hear all News from him, which is not the Case, for Col° Johnson does not receive from or impart much news to us. This is our Reason for Staying behind, for if we had came first, the other Nations would have said that we made the Governor's Speech, and therefore tho' we were resolved to come, we intended the other Nations should go before us that they might hear the Governors Speech, which we could hear Afterwards.

There are some of our People who have large open Ears and talk a little broken English and Dutch so that they sometimes hear what is said by the Christian Settlers near them; And by this means we came to understand that we are looked upon to be a proud Nation and therefore stayed behind. Tis true, and known we are so, And that we the Mohawks are the head of all the other Nations, here they are and the must own it. But it was not out of pride We Connojoharye staied behind—but for the Reason we have already given.

His Honour answered,

Bretheren of Connajohary

You have now told me the reason why you staid behind, because you would not be blaimed by the other Nations as you have been before. I am Satisfied with what you say that your staying behind did not proceed from pride.

You tell me you have large open Ears and that some of You understand a little of the Language of the Settlers about you, But I must caution you not to hearken to common Reports, neither of us or your Bretheren of the other Nations. I desire that we may all speak freely and open our Hearts to each other and so remove any Jealousies from amongst us.

I hope that at another Interview you will all be more punctual and keep as near as you can to the time appointed. You are sensible it must be very inconvenient to me and the Commissioners from the other Governments to be detained so long in this Place at so great a distance from our homes.

a true Copy Examined

by Geo. Banyar D C of y^e C^l

A Motion was made that a Committee should be appointed to draw up a Representation of the present state of the Colonies. Which was agreed to, and that the Gentlemen who were appointed to prepare & receive Plans or Schemes for the Union of the Colonies the 24 ult^o should be a Committee for this purpose.

The Plan for an Union of the Colonies was debated, but the Board came to no resolves upon it.

Adjourned to Nine oClock to morrow morning

At a Meeting in the Court House at Albany
on Tuesday the 2d July 1754 A M.

PRESENT

All the Commissioners from Massachusets Bay,
New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island,
Pensylvania, and Maryland.

After debates held on the Plan of an Union, it was moved

If they Board should proceed to form the plan of Union of the Colonies to be established by an Act of Parliament.

Whereupon it was moved to put the previous Question—which passed in the Negative.

The Question was then put whether the Board should proceed to form the Plan of a Union of the Colonies to be established by an act of parliament—which passed in the Affirmative.

Adjourned to 3 aClock in the Afternoon.

At a meeting as aforesaid on Tuesday
the 2d July 1754. P. M.

PRESENT

The Lieut Governor, & the four Gentlemn of the Council of New York and all the Commissioners from the Several Governmts above mentioned.

The answer of the Six Nations to the General Speech made to them on Saturday last by his Honour the Lieut Governor of New York in his Majesties name and in the presence and behalf of the Several Governments on the Continent therein named was Read and is as follows.

Abraham a Sachem of the upper Castle of the Mohawks rose up and said.

BRETHEREN

You the Governor of New York and the Commissioners of the other Governments, are you ready to hear us.

They Governor replyed, they were all ready.

Then Hendrick Brother to the said Abraham and a Sachem of the said Castle, rose up, and spoke in behalf of the Six Nations as follows.

BRETHEREN

Just now you told us you were ready to hear us, hearken to me Brother Corlaer and Brothers of the other Governments.

Saturday last you told us that you came here by order of the Great King our Common Father, and in his name to renew the Antient Chain of Friendship, between this and the other Governments on the Continent and us the Six united Nations; and you said also that there were then present Commissioners from Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, Connecticut Rhode Island, Pensylvania, and Maryland: and that Virginia and Carolina desired to be considered also as present.

We rejoyce that by the Kings Orders We are all met here this day, and are glad to see each other Face to Face. We are very thankfull for the same and we look upon the Governors of South Carolina and Virginia as also present. (Gave a Belt)

Brethren

We thank you in the most hearty manner for your Condolence to us, We also condole all your Friends and Relations who have died since our last meeting here.

(Gave 3 Strings of Wampum)

Bretheren (holding the Chain Belt given by his Honour and the several Governments in his hand.)

We return you all our Gratefull acknowledgements for renewing and brightening the Covenant Chain. this Chain Belt is of very great Importance to our united Nations and all our Allies, We will therefore take it to Onondaga where our Council Fire always Burns and keep it so securely that neither thunder nor Lightening shall break it. There we will consult over it, And as we have lately added two links to it so we will use our Endeavours to add as many links more to it as lies in our power; And we hope when we Shew you this Belt again, we shall give you reason to rejoice at it, by your seeing the Vacancies in it filled up, (referring to his Honours explanation of it in the General Speech) in the mean time we desire that you will strengthen yourselves and bring as many into this Covenant Chain as you possibly can.

We do now Solemnly renew and Brighten the Covenant Chain with our Bretheren here present and all our other absent bretheren on the Continent.

Bretheren

As to the accounts you have heard of our living dispersed from each other it is very true.

We have several times endeavoured to draw off those our Bretheren who are Settled at Oswegatie but in vain, for the Governor of Canada is like a wicked deluding Spirit. however as you desire, we shall persist in our Endeavours.

You have asked us the Reason of our living in this dispersed manner—the reason is, your neglecting us for these three years past, (then taking a Stick and throwing it behind his Back) you have thus thrown us behind your back, and disregarded us, Whereas the French are a subtile and Vigilent People, ever using their utmost Endeavours to seduce and bring our People over to them. (Gave a Belt)

Bretheren

As to the Incroachments of the French and what you have said to us on that Article in the behalf of the King our Father. As these matters were laid before us as of great Importance, so we have made a Strict Enquiry amongst all our People if any of them have either sold or given the French leave to Build the Forts you mention and we cannot find that either any Sale has been made, or leave has been given, but the French have gone thither without our Consent or Approbation nor ever mentioned it to us.

Bretheren

The Governor of Virginia and the Governor of Canada are both Quarrelling about lands which belong to us. And such a Quarrel as this may end in our destruction. They fight who shall have the Land. The Governors of Virginia and Pensylvania have made paths thro our Country to Trade and Build Houses without acquainting us with it, they should first have asked our Consent to build there as was done when Oswego was Built (Gave a Belt)

Bretheren

It is very true as you told us that the Clouds hang heavy over us, and tis not very pleasant to look up, but we give you this Belt (giving a Belt) to clear away all Clouds, that we may all live in bright sunshine and keep together in strict union and Friendship, then we shall become strong and nothing can hurt us.

Bretheren

This is the Antient place of Treaty where the Fire of Friendship always used to Burn, And 'tis now three Years since we

have been called to any publick Treaty here. Tis true there are Commissioners here, but they have never invited us to Smoak with them (by which they mean the Commissioners had never invited them to any conference) But the Indians of Canada come frequently and smoak here which is for the sake of their Beaver but we hate them (meaning the French Indians) We have not as yet confirmed the Peace with them. Tis your fault Bretheren that we are not Strengthened by Conquest, for we would have gone and taken Crown point, but you hindered us, We had concluded to go and take it, but we were told it was too late and that the Ice would not bear us. Instead of this you burnt your own Fort at Saraghtoga and run away from it, which was a Shame and a Scandall to you. Look about your Country and see, you have no Fortifications about you no not even to this City, tis but one step from Canada hither and the French may easily com and turn you out of your Doors.

Bretheren You desired us to speak from the bottom of our Hearts and we shall do it, Look about you and see all these Houses full of Beaver and the Money is all gone to Canada, likewise Powder, Lead and Guns which the French now makes use of at Ohio.

Brethren

The Goods which go from hence to Oswego, go from thence to Ohio, which further enables the French to carry on their designs at the Ohio.

Bretheren You were desirous that we should open our minds and our hearts to you. Look at the French, they are Men, they are fortifying every where—but we are ashamed to say it, you are all like Woman bare and Open without any Fortifications.

Here Hendrick ended his Speech, his
Brother Abraham then rose up and said.

Bretheren

We would let you know what was our desire three Years ago when Colo Johnson laid down the Management of Indian Affairs, which gave us great uneasiness. the Governor then told us it was not in his power to continue him, but that he would consult with the Council at New York—that he was going

over to England and promised to recommend our desire, that Col° Johnson should have the Management of Indian Affairs to the King, that the New Governor might have power to reinstate him.

We long waited in Expectation of this being done, but hearing no more of it, We Embrace this Opportunity of laying this Belt (and gave a Belt) before all our Brethren here present, and desire them that Coll° Johnson may be reinstated and have the management of Indian Affairs, for we all lived happy whilst they were under his Management, for we love him and he us, and he has always been our good and trusty Friend

Bretheren

I forgot Something, We think our Request about Coll° Johnson which Governor Clinton promised to carry to the King our Father is drowned in the Sea. The Fire here is burnt out, And (turning his Face to the New York Commissioners of Indian Affairs at Albany who were there present) desired them to take notice of what he said.

Which Answer from the Indians was debated Paragraph by Paragraph, and those Gentlemen who were Appointed a Committee to prepare a General Speech the 19 Ult° were now appointed to draw up a Reply. Adjourned till to Morrow Morning at 9 aClock.

At a Meeting in the Court House at Albany
on Wednesday the 3d July 1754. A. M.

Present

John Chambers & William Smith Esq^rs of the Council of New York

Samuel Welles, John Chandlor and Oliver Partridge Esq^rs Commissioners from Massachusetts Bay.

Theodore Atkinson, and Richard Wibird Esq^rs Commissioners from New Hampshire

The Commissioners from Connecticutt

Martin Howard Jun^r Esq^r a Commissioner from Rhode Island

All the Commissioners from Pennsylvania

Benj^a Tasker Jun^r Esq^r one of the Commissioners from Maryland

A draught of the Reply proposed to be made to the Speech of

the 6 nations of the 1st. Inst, which the Committee appointed yesterday afternoon had drawn up, was Read.

Mr. Chambers desired to carry it to his Honour the Lieut. Governor for his Opinion—which was agreed to.

Took their seats at the Board.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor

Joseph Murray and William Johnson Esqrs. of the Council of New York

Thomas Hutchinson & John Worthington Esqrs. Commissioners for

Massachusetts Bay.

Meschech Weare & Henry Sherbourne Esqrs. Commissrs. for New Hampshire

Stephen Hopkins Esqr. one of the Commissioners from Rhode Island

Abraham Barnes Esqr. one of the Commissionersfrom Maryland.

His Honour laid before the Board certain matters which he proposed to be inserted in the Reply to be made to the 6 nations which together with the Draught from the Committee was read & Debated

The Commissioners from Pensylvania also laid before the Board an addition in behalf of their Province and proposed it to be added to the Reply—The Commissioners from Massachusets, New Hampshire and Connecticut proposed also some additions.

These several Draughts being read and considered, the following Reply to the Six nations was agreed upon by the Board.

Brethren

It gives us great pleasure to see you so ready to renew and brighten the Antient Chain of Friendship; We wish the farther extention of it, and shall not fail joining our utmost endeavours for that purpose.

Brethren

We are very sorry that any neglect has been shewn to you, and we hope that nothing of that kind will happen hereafter, or any misunderstanding arise between you and any of his Majesties Governments. You are our Old and steady Friends. We assure you not one thought hav ever come into our minds of

rejecting you ;—Our Hearts have ever been warm towards you, and we now gladly meet and open our hearts to you. The Covenant is renewed, the Chain is Brightened, The Fire burns Clear, and we hope all things will be pleasant on both sides for the future. A Belt

Bretheren

We gladly understand you gave no countenance to the French who went to Ohio and have entered on your Lands, they are always your and our open or Secret Enemies; you did put this Land under the King our Father, he is now taking care to preserve it for you ; for this end among others he has directed to meet you here, for although the Land is under the Kings Government, yet the property or power of selling it to any of his Majesties Subjects having authority from him we always consider as vested in you.

Bretheren

You say that the Governors of Virginia and Canada are fighting about Lands belonging to you, and that the Governors of Virginia and Pensylvania have opened new Roads and Built Houses at Ohio

What you say is a great surprise to us, we all know that for 5 years past, in the Face of all the Six nations, in open Day light, the French have been marching Troops into that country which we ever did and do still acknowledge to belong to you, tho' within Your Father the King of Great Britains Dominions, and under his Protection, and the French did publish every where their designs to Build Forts and drive away the English Traders : and they did carry them into Execution, by seizing the Traders and did last year actually build two Forts in that Country.

But we never heard Notwithstanding these open Hostalities of the French, that ever Virginia or Pensylvania sent one Soldier or Built one House for their or your Protection, till this present year.

It is fortunate that Mr. Weiser who transacts the publick business of Virginia and Pensylvania with your nations, and is one of your Council and knows these matters well, is now present. Hear the account he gives and that will set this matter in a true light.

Mr. Weiser was to say as follows.

"Brethren

The Road to Ohio is no new Road, it is an Old and frequented Road. The Shawanese and Delawares removed thither above thirty years ago from Pensylvania, ever since which that road has been travelled by our Traders at their Invitation, and always with safety, untill within these few Years that the French with their usual faithlessness sent armies there, threatened the Indians and obstructed our Trade with them.

The Governor of Virginia observing these Hostilities in time of full peace sent his Majesty an account of them. His Majesty was pleased to order his Governor to hold an Interview with the Six nations to consult measures with them how to put a stop to these French Proceedings, equally injurious to them as to his subjects; and that they might better know them, it was thought the interview might best be held at some place near the Country where these Hostile proceedings were carried on. His Majesty likewise ordered a present to the Six nations as a farther token of his affection for them. Accordingly Mr. Weiser in 1750 was sent to Onondaga by the Governor of Virginia and invited the Indians to come and treat at Fredericksburgh in that Province, and receive the Kings present, but could not prevail. The Governor of Virginia finding the French still continuing their Hostilities sent Commissioners in 1751 to the Indians at Ohio and delivered them the Kings present, and by a Belt of wampum proposed, that a strong House might be built near the Mouth of Mohongakela for their mutual protection. The Indians made answer, that they were well pleased with the proposal and would send that Belt to Onondaga, and join one of their own to it. Nothing was heard of this Belt; and the last year the French invaded the country of Ohio with a strong hand, whereupon the Indians residing there your Flesh and Blood, sent repeated messages to the Governor of Virginia, to send his Young Men to their assistance. But he being a Person of great forethought and prudence, still forebore to do it; and instead thereof sent two Messages by Mr. Andrew Montour to Onondaga, for your advice how to act. It happened that no Council could be Called at either time. The Chiefs of Onon-

daga desired Mr. Montour to tell their Brother the Governor of Virginia, to act cautiously and let the French strike the first blow.

The French then coming nearer and nearer Tanacharisson (otherwise called the half King) was sent to them by the united nations at Ohio together with the Shawanese & Delawares, to forewarn them off their Land. In the mean time other Chiefs of these several nations came to Virginia and Pensylvania, and told us what they had agreed upon in Council; to wit, that they (the rest of their Chiefs,) should come to us and desire us to call our people from over the Allegheny Hills, to prevent Bloodshed between the English and French. But when these Indians returned, and found that the French paid no regard to their warning, but told them possitively that if they opposed their taking possession of that country, they would cut them off. They sent repeated Messages to the Govrs. of Pensylvania and Virginia to apprize them of their the Indians imediate danger, telling them they would find nothing but the ashes of their Houses and their Bones if they did not forthwith send warriors and build them a House to fly to. Having a late Example before their Eyes, in that the French had fallen upon their Bretheren the Twightwees on a sudden, and killed them in their Houses as well as some English who were then trading with them.

On this Melancholy Account the Governor of Virginia agreeable to the request of the Indians, sent people to Build a House at the Mouth of the Mohongahila, but before they had finished it, the French came down the River with a thousand Men and Eighteen Cannon and told the people who were building it, and were but Forty four in Number, that they must either fight or give up possession, which last they were obliged to do on Account of the Superior Force of the French.

Bretheren

This is the truth which we have thought proper to relate so particularly, that the prudent and Cautious Conduct of Virginia might be known to the Six Nations. As to pensylvania they have never sent a Warrior or built a Fort at Ohio. This Belt is given to confirm what is said and that you May remember what has been now related to you." A Belt

here Mr Weiser's relation ends.

Bretheren

You tell us we are open and defenceless. We are consulting how far it will be necessary to Fortifye our Frontiers. At the same time we expect you take care to keep your people from going over to the French.

We are able when united with You to resist any force the French and their allies can bring against us.

The following Paragraphs were to be spoken by the Gov[r] of New York in his own Name—

Bretheren

You have told me, that this is the place of Treaty, that tis now three years ago since you were asked to smoak a pipe here That there are Commissioners, but they have never invited you to Smoak with them.

It was their Duty on their Appointment to acquaint you with it and to invite you to smoak with them and to rekindle the Fire which was then almost extinguished, and if they had done it earlier and before I sent them Directions it would have been very agreeable to me.

Bretheren

You say the Houses here are full of Beaver This is a trading place and the Merchants have a right to Traffick for Beaver, or other Skins, which they sometimes pay for in Goods and sometimes in money. But as to what you say about Guns, and powder being sold to the French: I have made all the Enquiry I could into this matter and am Assured you are misinformed, for that neither Guns nor Powder are sold by any persons here to the French.

Bretheren

You tell me that whilst Coll[o] Johnson had the Management of Indian Affairs you all lived Happy; that you loved him and he you, and that he has always been your good and trusty Friend. I am very sensible you had good reason to look upon him in this Light, and fully convinced that he is still your Friend. But as this is the place where the Antient Fire was kindled which was nearly burnt out, and as Coll[o] Johnson for some Reason declined the management of Indian Affairs, it was thought proper to rekindle the Fire here by appointing Commissioners, whom I shall direct to

receive and consult with you, upon all Business that may concern our Mutual Interests, and I expect that you will for the future, apply to them according to the Custom of Your forefathers, to tell you News, and in return to receive from them what shall be thought necessary to be imparted to You. And I will give them directions that they treat you with the Affection due to you as Bretheren. I will make tryall of them another year and if you do not meet with the kind Treatment you have aright to expect, complain to this Government and effectual Measures shall be taken for your Satisfaction. Gave a Belt

The following was to be spoke by Mr Kellogg Interpreter from Massachusetts Bay.

Brethren

We have agreed to tell all News and take Council together. We cannot part till we have told you the News from New England tho' at a considerable distance from you. The French have the same bad designs there as well as at Ohio; They are very fond to get Kennybeck River, We have News of their beginning a Fort at the head of that river; A priest of theirs has built a House a great way down that River; Governor Shirley has raised 800 Men and is gone down to drive them away and to Build an English Fort at the head or far up the said River Kennybec—We have News also that the French are building a Fort up Connecticut River Northward of Cowass; The Governor of New Hampshire has now sent a Company of Men up that River to enquire into that Fact, and if true to drive them imediately off. In another part of the Government of New Hampshire a Number of the St Francis Indians have lately taken a family consisting of a Man and his Wife and three Children and carried them into Captivity from an out Settlement on Merrismack River, and this contrary to their solemn Engagement at a Treaty held with them.

We have also News that a Number of Indians had Murdered Twenty one English Fishermen at Canso and had carried their Scalps to Cape Britton where they were well received and tis said rewarded.

The Board then Adjourned till to Morrow Morning at 9 a Clock.

At a Meeting in the Court house at
Albany on Thursday the 4 July 1754 A. M.

PRESENT

The four Gentlemen of the Council of New York, and
All the Commissioners for the Several Governments.

The plan for a Union of the Colonies was Debated, but nothing finally determined on.

Adjourned to 3 oclock this afternoon.

At a Meeting as above Thursday
the 4, July 1754. P. M.

PRESENT

All the Commissioners for the several Governments.

The plan for a Union was further considered but no resolves made thereupon.

The Board receiving a Message from his Honour the Lieut. Governor of New York that the Indians were seated in order to speak to his Honour and the Commissioners.

The Board adjourned to 9 o'clock to Morrow Morning and waited upon the Governor.

At a meeting in the Court House at
Albany on Fryday the 5 July 1754 A. M.

PRESENT

All the Commissioners from the Several Governments

The Rejoinder of the Six nations spoke yesterday afternoon was read to the Board and was ordered to be minuted as follows.

(The following speech is chiefly a Rejoinder to the
Reply made to the Six nations on the 3d. Inst)

BROTHER of New York and

BRETHEREN of the Several Governments.

We on our side are equally as much rejoiced as you have expressed yourselves on the renewing and brightening the Antient Covenant chain between all his Majesties Governments on the Continent and us of the Six united Nations.

As to what the Governor of New York told us Yesterday relating to the Commissioners of Indian Affairs at Albany — We are much obliged to him for his promise to direct them to take

due Notice of us for the future—That he will try them for one year longer, and for giving us leave to acquaint this Government, if they do not treat us as Bretheren

Bretheren We have told the Governor of New York how Coll° Johnson has beheaved to us and our Opinion of him, And the danger we thought ourselves in by his leaving off the Management of Indian Affairs—if he fail us we die—however we agree to what the Governor has proposed to us—he is Master of all to do what he pleases, And we Submit the whole affair to him.

(Gave a Belt)

Bretheren

We are very thankfull to the King our Father for ordering Commissioners from so many Governments to meet here, in order to enquire into all matters relating to us and to put every thing upon a right footing. We rejoice that we have opened our Hearts to each other and we return the Governor and all the Commissioners from the several Governments our thanks for the same.

Bretheren

Sometime ago the King our Father sent a present to the Governor of Virginia, who sent a Messenger to the Six Nations that we should come down to Virginia and receive it, but we could not come; We have since been informed that the present was sent to Ohio. (the Speaker then proceeded to repeat the Substance of what was said to them Yesterday on the part of the Governm^ts of Virginia and Pensylvania by their Interpreter M^r Weiser.)

We allow that the Road from Pensylvania to Ohio is no new Road but has been travelled these 30 years by the Traders

We thank the Governor of Virginia for assisting the Indians at Ohio who are our Relations and Allies, And we approve of the Governor of Pensylvania's not having hitherto intermeddled in this affair. He is a wise and prudent man and will know his own time.

We return the Governor of New York and all the other Governments our most hearty thanks (here the Speaker made bows to his Honor and all the Commissioners) for the promise of protection given us of our Lands and the Acknowledgment that the right of selling it is in us. (Gave a Belt)

Bretheren

We put you in mind in our former Speech of the defenceless state of your Frontiers particularly of this City, of Schenectady and of the Country of the Five Nations.

You told us Yesterday you were consulting about securing both yourselves and us—We beg you will resolve upon something Speedily—You are not safe from danger one day—The French have their Hatchet in their hands both at Ohio and in two places in New England—We dont know but this very Night they may attack us. One of the principal reasons why we desire you will be speedy in these matters is, that since Coll° Johnson has been in this City, there has been a French Indian at his House, who took measure of the Wall round it, and made very narrow Observations on every thing there abouts. We think (Coll° Johnson) in very great danger, because the French will take more than Ordinary pains either to kill him or take him prisoner, upon Account of his great Interest among us, and being also one of the Five Nations (Coll° Johnson is one of their Sachems.) Upon this they give 4 Strings of Wampum.

The Board then proceeded to consider the Plan for a Union but did not go thro' with it.

Adjourned to 9 oClock to Morrow Morning.

The Board having ordered the foregoing Rejoinder of the Six Nations to be only so far recorded in their proceedings, the remainder of their rejoinder is supplyed as follows, from the Records of Indian Affairs; that these proceedings of the Congress may compleat all that passed at the publick Conference with the Indians.

Bretheren

There is an Affair about which our Hearts tremble and our minds are deeply concerned; this is the Selling of Rum in our Castles. It destroys many both of our Old and Young people.—We request of all the Governments here present, that it may be forbidden to carry any of it amongst the Five Nations.

Bretheren We are in great Fears about this Rum, it may cause Murder on both sides. We dont want it to be forbid to be Sold us in Albany, but that none may be brought to our Castiles.

The Cayougas now declare in their own name, that they will not allow any Rum to be brought up their River, and those who do must take the Consequences.

Bretheren We the Mohawks of both Castles have also one request to make, which is that the people who are settled round about us, may not be Suffered to sell our People Rum ; it keeps them all poor, makes them Idle and Wicked, and if they have any Money or Goods they lay it all out in Rum, it destroys Virtue and the progress of Religion amongst us. (the lower Castle of the Mohawks have a Chapel and an English Missionary belonging to it) We have a friendly request to make to the Governor and all the Commissioners here present — that they will help us to Build a Church at Cannojohery and that we may have a Bell in it, which together with the putting a stop to the Selling of Rum, will tend to make us Religious and lead better lives than we do now

Bretheren

We have now fully opened our hearts to you, except about the Land belonging to the Connojohery's which carried us to go down to New York last Year. The Governor knows what our Complaint is, and we now desire to know when that affair will be settled, as it was promised that Satisfaction should be given us on that Article.

Here Hendrick ended his Speech.

Mr Penn one of the Commissioners from Pensylvania declared that himself in Conjunction with the other Commissioners of that Government were about purchasing from the Six Nations a Tract of Land within the Boundaries of the said Government below the Latitude 42—and the Indians also then published their Intention of making the said Sale at the Commissioners Lodgings. The Governor spoke to the Indians and told them.

That as to what they had said about Rum, he would give them an answer to morrow Morning, that he had received a present for them from the King their Father, and another from this Government which he would give to them to Morrow Morning, when he would also give them an answer to those other particulars which require one. As I have given you Satisfaction with respect to one of your Complaints about your Lands and that you have consented that an

Enquiry into any other shall be deferred untill I arrive at New York, I shall not now say any thing further to you on that affair.

Extracted from the Records of Indian Affairs

By PETER WRAXALL Secretary

At a Meeting held in the Court House at Albany on Saturday the 6 July 1754 A. M.

PRESENT

All the Commissioners for Massachusetts Bay.

William Pitkin & Roger Wolcott } Esq[rs] Commissioners for Connecticut

The Commissioners for Rhode Island.

John Penn, Isaac Norris & Benj[a] Franklin ..... } Esq[rs] Commissioners for Pensylvania

The Commissioners for Maryland.

His Honour the Lieu[t] Governor sent to the Board the Speech he proposes to make to the River Indians which the Board agreed to with a small addition which was sent in writing to his Honour.

The Board having been informed by M[r] Peters "That the "Lieu[t] Governor of New York sent for him last night and told "him his Provisions were expended and he could no longer "maintain the Indians and Expected the Commissioners would "maintain them, and gave him the List of what had been allowed "p Day to the Five Nations exclusive of the River Indians."

The Board hereupon Resolved.

That they would take the charge of supporting the Indians upon themselves.

Meseck Weare and Henry Sherbourne Esq[rs] Commissioners from New Hampshire took their Seats.

The Committee appointed the 1[st] Inst. to draw up a Representation of the present State of the Colonies with relation to the French, delivered the same to the Board, which was read and ordered to lye upon the Table for the Consideration of the Commissioners.

The Secretary presented to the Board a Draught of the Speech which his honour proposed to deliver to the Six Nations this Afternoon—And also the following Message from his Honour "That the Board would please to send him any Alterations or "Additions which they might think proper to be made to the said

"draught—"That his honour intended when he made the Speech "to read to them the Act of the Genl Assembly of New York "concerning the Sale of Rum to the Indians, And that he also "recommended the request of the upper Castle of the Mohawks "for a Church to the Board."

The Secretary also brought back his Honours Approbation to them sall Addition proposed to be made to the Speech intended to be made to River Indians, which Speech is as follows.

"Bretheren

I have sent for you here to give you fresh Assureances of the Great King your Fathers protection, and that we might with the Commissioners whom you now see Assembled from the Governments of Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, Connecticutt, Rhode Island, Pensylvania, and Maryland, Strengthen and brighten the Covenant Chain.

We are glad to see you at this your old Meeting place and we do now in his Majesties name and in behalf of all his Colonies renew the Antient Covenant Chain of Friendship, that it may be Stronger and brighter than ever, which we recommend to you to preserve Clean and free from Rust, by a peaceable and Affectionate beheaviour to all your Bretheren and especially to those who live near you, and you may then with Confidence rely on the favour of this and all his Majesties Governments.

As a proof of the King your Fathers tender regard to you I shall deliver you a present he has sent over for you, consisting of such necessaries as you may want. And the Commissioners from each of the Governments have contributed towards a present for you also, All which presents shall be here ready for you in the Afternoon.

Elisha Williams Esqr a Commissr for Connecticutt took his Seat

On a motion made and Seconded That a message be sent to his Honour the Lieut Governor of New York relateing to the answer he proposes to make to the Six Nations; Mr Hutchinson and Mr Franklin were appointed to prepare the same.

Theodore Atkinson & Richard Wibird..... } Esqrs Commissioners for New Hampshire took their Seats as did also Richard Peters Esqr one of Commissrs for Pensylvania.

Mr Hutchinson reported the following Message.

"May it please your Honour.

The Commissioners from the Several Governments now met at Albany, observe that in the Speech your honour proposes to make this day to the Indians of the Six Nations, and which you have caused to be Communicated to the Board by their Secretary, no Notice is taken of the Complaints of the said Indians relating to their Lands. The Complaint seems by the Letter from the Right Honoble the Lords of Trade, which your Honour has laid before the board, to have been the Principal Occasion of this unusual and expensive Meeting of Commissioners from so many Colonies, And it appears by the last Answer from the Indians that their uneasiness still remains.

The Commissioners therefore think it incumbent on them to pray your Honour that they may be acquainted with the Particulars of the Complaint, and that they may have an Opportunity of consulting with your Honour proper Measures for removing the causes thereof."

Which was read and unanimously agreed to, and it was thereupon Ordered that Mr Welles and Mr Pitkin wait upon his Honour the Lieut Governor of New Yorke with the same.

Adjourned to 3 oClock this Afternoon.

At a Meeting &c on Saturday the
6th July 1754. P. M.

Present

All the Commissioners from Massachusetts Bay
All the Commissioners from New Hampshire
The Commissioners from Connecticutt

Stephen Hopkins Esqr one of the Commissioners from Rhode Island

Mr Welles reported to the Board, that he and Mr Pitkin had delivered the Message they were appointed in the Morning to deliver to his Honour the Lieut Governor of New York.

The four Gentlemen of the Council of New York
Martin Howard Junr Benja Franklin and
Abraham Barnes Esqrs } took their Seats.

Mr Murray delivered at the Board, His Honour the Lieut Governor's Answer in writing to the Message delivered to his

Honour in the Morning by Mr Welles and Mr Pitkin which was read and is as follows

GENTLEMEN

In answer to your Message to me of this Day I acquaint you, that Yesterday I had the Sachems of the Connajohery Castle before me in Council, to conclude the matter in Controversey between some Germans and one Teady Magin, relating to an Indian Purchase, that had occasioned the greatest uneasiness among the Indians of that Castle, which after two Meetings was then formerly and finally settled to the Satisfaction of all parties.

I then took Occasion to observe to them, that at their Meeting on the 2d Inst. I desired them to open their Minds fully and that I expected they would then have laid all their Complaints before me. That as to what they had mentioned in their public Speech on the 4th Inst. I was not acquainted with any other particular Complaints, until I came to this place, being abroad on the Circuit at the time they made them at New York, and then I promised as soon as I returned thither, I would look into them, and do them all the Justice that lay in my Power, with which they declared themselves well Satisfied and thanked me.

JAMES DELANCEY

Albany 6th July 1754.

The Board being obliged to attend at the Interview of the Schaticook and River Indians.

Adjourned to Monday Morning at 9 aClock

At a Meeting in the Court House at Albany
on Monday the 8 July 1754. A. M.

PRESENT

William Johnson
&
William Smith
} Esqrs Two of the Council of New York &
All the Commissioners

The Speech proposed by his Honour to be made to the Indians of the Six Nations having been again read to the Board, and the Complaint of the Indians relative to their Lands coming under their Consideration; The Board were Acquainted that Mr William Livingston and Mr William Alexander two of the Heirs or Devisies

of Philip Livingston Esq^{r} deceased the Proprietor or Patentee of the Lands, on which Canajohery Castle stands, had declared their Readiness to give up all rights to said Patent's or such parts as shall be thought necessary. It was ordered that s^{d} M^{r} Livingston and M^{r} Alexander be informed that the Board desired to Speak with them.

M^{r} Livingston and M^{r} Alexander being present informed the Board that their Father was one among other Patentees of the Lands mentioned, That they were interested one eighth each of them in their Fathers right. The Circumstances of his Title they had made no Enquiry into, but were ready to make any Resignation which either Justice or the Publick Service required.

The Board being informed that his Honour the Lieu^{t} Governor desired a Gentleman from each Government might be appointed to be present with him in making Enquiry of the Indians of the Cannojohery Castle, how far they were satisfied respecting their Lands, M^{r} Peters and M^{r} Howard were appointed to wait on his honour and acquaint him that the Board agreed to the proposal. Accordingly

M^{r} Hutchinson was appointed for Massachusetts Bay
Col^{o} Atkinson " " for New Hampshire
Col^{o} Wolcott " " for Connecticut
M^{r} Hopkins " " for Rhode Island
M^{r} Norris " " for Pensylvania
Col^{o} Tasker " " for Maryland
Joseph Murray and John Chambers Esq^{rs}
of the Council of New York took their seats.

His Honours draught of the Speech he proposes to make to the 6 Nations which was delivered to the Board the 6th Inst was read and after debate had thereon relative to the Sale of Rum amongst them, and the Connojohary's desire about a Church, some Alterations and Additions to it were agreed to be proposed to his Honour.

The Representation of the present state of the Colonies was again read through, but no final Resolution thereon agreed to.

The Answer of the Scaakticook and River Indians to the speech made them the 6th Inst. were read and are as follows.

The Speech of the Schaakticook Indians.

FATHER

We are glad that the Governor sees his Children now before him, We are small in Number but next time we hope we shall be more.

Your Honour may see that we are but young and unexperienced, our Antient people being almost all Dead, so that we have no Body to give us any advice but we will do as our fathers have done before us. Gave a Belt.

FATHER

This Belt came from our Forefathers and we will be true and faithfull, to the King as they were. Gave a Belt

They gave also to the Governor a small Bundle of Skins & desired that the Sale of Rum might be Stopped at Schaackticook and that if they want it, they will come and buy it at Albany.

The Speech of the River Indians.

FATHERS.

We are greatly rejoiced to see you all here. It is by the Will of Heaven that we are met here, and we thank you for this Opportunity of seeing you altogether as it is a long while since we have had such a one.

FATHERS. Who sit present here We will just give you a short relation of the long Friendship which hath Subsisted between the white people of this Country and us. Our forefathers had a Castle on this River, as one of them walked out he saw something on the River, but was at loss to know what it was, he took it at first, for a great Fish, he ran into the Castle and gave Notice to the other Indians. Two of our forefathers went to see what it was, and found it a Vessel with Men in it. They immediately joined hands with the People in the Vessell and became Friends. They white people told them they should not come any further up the River at that time and said to them they would return back from whence they came and come again in a Years time. According to their promise they returned back in a Years time and came as far up the River as where the Old Fort stood, Our forefathers invited them a Shore and said to them, here we will give you a place, to make you a Town, it shall be from this place up to such a Stream (meaning where the Patroons Mill now Stands) and from

the River back up to the Hill. Our Fore fathers told them tho' they were now a small People they would in time Multiply and fill up the Land, they had given them. After they were a Shoar sometime, Some other Indians who had not seen them before, loked feircely at them and Our Forefathers observing it & seeing the white People so few in Number, lest they should be destroyed took and Sheltered them under their Arms; but it turned out that those Indians did not desire to destroy them, but wished also to have the said White People for their Friends At this time which we have now spoken of, The white People were small, but we were very Numerous and strong. We defended them in that low state, but now the Case is altered. You are Numerous and strong we are few and Weak, Therefore we expect that you will Act by us in these Circumstances as we did by you in those we have just now related.

We view you now as a very large Tree which has taken deep Root in the Ground, whose Branches are spread very wide, We stand by the Body of this Tree and we look round to see if there be any who endeavour to hurt it, And if it should so happen that any are powerful enough to destroy it we are ready to fall with it.

Gave a Belt

Fathers

You see how early we made Friendship with You, We tied each other in a very strong Chain, that Chain has not yet been broken, We now clean and rub that Chain to make it Brighter and stronger, And we determine on our part that it never shall be broken, and we hope you will take care that neither you or any one else shall break it, And We are greatly rejoiced that Peace and Friendship have so long subsisted between us

Gave a Belt

Fathers

dont think strange at what we are about to say, We would say something respecting our Lands when the White People purchased from time to time of us, they said they only wanted to purchase the low Lands, they told us the Hilly Land was good for nothing and that it was full of Wood and Stones; But now We see People living all about the Hills and Woods altho' they have

not purchased the Lands—When we enquire of the People who live on these Lands what right they have to them, they reply to us, that we are not to be regarded, and that these Lands belong to the King, but we were the first possessors of them, and when the King has paid us for them, then they may say they are his. Hunting now is grown very Scarce and we are not like to get our livings that way. Therefore we hope our Fathers will take care that We are paid for Our Lands that we may live.

Gave a Belt

Make a present of a bundle of Skins.

The Board then Adjourned to 3 o Clock this Afternoon.

At a Meeting &c Monday 8 July
1754. P. M.

PRESENT

All the Commissioners except Col° Atkinson, Mr Norris, and the Commissioners for Maryland.

The Board proceeded in their Consideration upon the plan for a Union but did not go thro' with it.

The Speech proposed to be made to the 6 Nations was returned to the Board from his Honour with the Alterations and Additions proposed by the Board this Morning.

ORDERED

That the said Speech lay upon the Table till some further matters relating to it be agreed on by the Board.

The Committee Appointed in the Morning to be present with the Lieut Governor of New York at a Conferrence with the Connojahery Indians returned from the same and Reported as follows

That his Honour enquired of the Indians whether they had not expressed themselves Satisfied with the Measures he had taken concerning their Lands and the Promise that he would enquire further into the Affair when he came to New York. To which they replyed. That they were sensible his Honour was at Albany when they made their Complaints at New York last Year—that he had told them he had now left the Papers there, but would enquire into it when he came there—That they were

willing to try one Year more and if matters were not made up by the Governor whom they looked upon as their Elder Brother, but neglected as they used to be, they would send to all their other Brothers (pointing to the Commissioners) for their Assistance— And that they agreed to this the rather as there were French Indians in Town and they did not think it convenient to have any Difference before them. Upon which his Honour again assured them he would enquire into their affairs in order to their being Satisfied especially as he had the Kings orders for it.

The Board receiving a Message from his Honour that the Sachems of the Six Nations were attending to be spoke to.

The Board adjourned to 9 oClock to Morrow Morning and waited upon the Governor.

At a Meeting in the Court House at Albany
on Tuesday the 9 July 1754. A. M.

PRESENT

Joseph Murray and William Smith Esq[rs] of the Council of New York

All the Commissioners Except Coll[o] Partridge & M[r] Hopkins

The public Conference between his Honour the Lieu[t] Governor of New York and the Commiss[rs] from the Several Governments with the Sachems of the Six Nations Yesterday Evening was read and ordered to be entered as follows.

BRETHEREN

You told me your Hearts were deeply concerned at the sad effects which may arise from Selling Rum in your Respective Countries. I will give Orders, that the Laws already made for preventing the Sale of this Liquor among you shall be Strictly put in Execution and whatever further provision in the Law is necessary I will endeavour it shall be made, that you may see I take care of your Health and your peace, which are hurt and disturbed by the use of this Liquor among you of the Five upper Nations. And as to what you of the Mohawks have said, I shall consider how far it may be necessary to restrain the people living round you from selling Rum, and if I can think of a proper remedy for this evil, I will endeavor to apply it.

Brethren of the upper Castle of the Mohawks.

I am well pleased with your earnest request to have a Church Built amongst you, and I shall do every thing in my power to promote so good a Work. And it is very agreeable to me and the Commissioners from all the Governments present to find a Disposition in you to receive the Christian Religion

Bretheren

As I have given you Satisfaction with respect to one of your Complaints about your Lands which lay heavy on your minds, and have assured you that I shall endeavour to do you Justice, as to the rest when I come to New York, I shall not say anything farther to you on that Affair now.

The Governor being informed by the Interpreter that they choose to have the pouder divided on the Hill, told them it was in his Opinion better for them to have it sent to Schenectady.

Hendrick Answered for them, just as his Honour pleased, who told them, he would order the pouder to Schenectady and the Rum above the Settlements, with which they expressed themselves Satisfied.

His Honour then said

I have now done speaking to You but before I cover up the Fire I must recommend it to You to behave quietly and peaceably to all your Bretheren and their Castle in your return home.

Hendrick then Replyed

Your Honour told us you now covered up the Fire we are highly pleased that all things have been so amicably Settled, and hope that all that has passed between us may be strictly observed on both sides.

Bretheren of the Several Governments

We hope that you will not fail in the Covenant Chain wherewith we have mutually bound ourselves, and now so solemnly renewed and Strengthened.

If we dont hold fast by this Chain of Friendship our Enemies will laugh at us to Scorn.

Bretheren

We wish you would All contribute to provide some Provision

for us in our way home, which will Effectually prevent our People from Killing the Inhabitants Cattle, And we desire you will provide some Waggons for us to go to Schenectady. We think this Expence will fall to heavy upon one Province as we have the Presents from all to carry up.

We beg we may all take care of the Tree of Friendship and preserve it by our Mutual Attention from any Injuries; we will take care of it on our sides, and we hope our Bretheren will do so on theirs We wish this Tree of Friendship may grow up to great heigth and then we shall be a powerful People.

Bretheren

We the united Nations shall rejoice in the Increase of our Strength, so that all other Nations may stand in Awe of us.

Bretheren

I will just tell you what a People we were formerly, If any of our Enemies rose against us, we had no Occasion to lift up our whole hand against them, for our little Finger was sufficient And as we have now made so strong a Confederacy, if we are truly Earnest therein we may retrieve the Antient Glory of the Five Nations.

Bretheren We have now done, but one word we must add, the Interpreter, if the French continue their Hostalities will want Assistance, Three or Four to be joined with him but this matter we submit to the Governor. We have now fully finished all that we have to say.

The Governor Replyed.

Bretheren

It gives me and all the Commissioners here present great Satisfaction, that this interview has concluded so Amicably on all sides. I have Ordered 30 Wagons to be provided for your Service which I expect here to Morrow Morning, and I have Ordered Provisions for you, to serve you on your Journey.

I hope by this present Union we shall grow up to a great heigth, and be as powerfull and Famous as you were of Old.

As to the Interpreter when the Circumstances of this Country require it, he shall have the Necessary Assistance, And I Assure you in the Name of this Government and all the Governments

here present, that we shall endeavour to extend and preserve the Covenant Chain by every possible method in our Power.

They asked his Honour when himself and the Commissioners proposed to return home.

His Honour answered, That they had some Matters yet to settle about the Union and then they should set out for their respective Habitations.

The Governor then in his own name and that of the Commissioners, wished them a good Journey and they returned the Compliment and then the Conferrences broke up.

The Answers of the Lieut Governor and the Commissioners to the Schaakticook and River Indians was next read and ordered to be entered as follows.

The Answer to the Schaaktecook Indians.

CHILDREN

We condole with you on the loss of your Old and experienced People. A String

CHILDREN

I and the Commissioners from the other Governmts here present are glad to see that Although you are Young and unexperienced, yet you are willing to take advice, and are determined to remain faithfull to the King and friendly to all his Subjects

A Belt

Answer to the River Indians

CHILDREN

We are glad to find that you Treasure up in your Memories the mutual instances of Friendship between our ancestors and yours. The Remembrance of that Friendship will descend to our posterity, and we desire you to hand it down to yours. And altho' there is a great alteration in Circumstances since our predecessors first came among you, yet we have not less affection for you than they had. A Belt.

CHILDREN

Your brightening and Strengthening the Covenant Chain is well pleasing to me and the Commissioners. We acknowledge you have never broken it, We have likewise preserved it entire and are determined to continue to do so. A Belt.

Children

You complain that some of the People of this Province are in possession of your Lands which you never sold. This is a Complaint which Affects Persons that live at a distance ; I have ordered notice to be given them of it, and if upon Enquiry into the affair, it shall appear that you have been injured, I will endeavour to get you redressed. But I shall observe to you that the constant method of granting Lands in this Province is and has been by Licence from the Governor to purchase from the Indians; and upon the purchase being returned before him in Council, he with their advice orders a Patent ; and that most of these Lands concerning which you complain were patented when you were Children, some before any of you were born

Ordered that the following Minute be made

That the last paragraph of the foregoing answer to the River Indians about the manner of patenting Lands in this Province, beginning with the words, "I shall observe"—was an addition made by his Honour to the draught sent him Yesterday by this Board.

Coll°. Johnson Mr. Chambers
Coll°. Patridge & Mr. Hopkins } took their Seats.

The Plan of the union was Debated and agreed upon and Mr. Franklin was desired to make a Draught of it as now concluded upon.

Adjourned to 5 oclock this Evening.

At a meeting &c on Tuesday
the 9 July 1754. P. M.

Present

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor

The four Gentlemen of the Council of New York &

All the Commissioners Except Mr. Franklin absent by his appointment in the Morning.

The draught of the Representation &c was read and considered Paragraph by Paragraph, some amendments made, and the whole was agreed to and ordered to be minuted as follows.

That his Majesties Title to the northern Continent of America appears to be founded on the Discovery thereof first made, and

the Possession thereof first taken in 1497, under a Commission from Henry the 7th. of England to Sebastian Cabot.

That the French have possessed themselves of several parts of this Continent which by Treaties have been ceded and confirmed to them.

That the right of the English to the whole Sea Coast from Georgia on the South to the River St. Lawrence on the north excepting the Island of Cape Breton, and the Islands on the Bay of St. Lawrence, remains plain and indisputable.

That all the Lands or Countries westward from the Atlantick Ocean to the South Sea, between 48 and 34 Degrees north Latitude were expressly included in the Grant of King James the 1st, to divers of his Subjects, so long since as the Year 1606, and afterwards confirmed in 1620—and under this Grant the Colony of Virginia claims extent as far west as the South Sea, and the Antient Colonies of the Massachusetts Bay and Connecticutt were by their Respective Charters made to extend to the said South Sea, so that not only the Right to the Sea Coast, but to all the Inland Countries from Sea to Sea has at all times been asserted by the Crown of England.

That the Province of nova Scotia or Accadie hath known and Determinate Bounds by the Original Grant from King James the 1st. and that there is abundant evidence of the Sense which the French had of these Bounds while they were in Possession of it, and that these Bounds being thus known, the said Province by the Treaty of Utrecht according to its antient Limits, was ceded to great Britain and remained in Possession thereof until the Treaty of Aix la Chapelle, by which it was Confirmed; but by said Treaty it is stipulated that the Bounds of the said Province shall be determined by Commissarys &c.

That by the Treaty of Utrecht the Country of the Five Cantons of the Iroquois, is expressly acknowledged, to be under the Dominion of the Crown of Great Britain.

That the Lake Champlain formerly called Lake Iroquois and the Country Southward of it as far as the Dutch or English settlements, the Lakes Ontario, Erie and all the Countries adjacent, have by all Antient authors French and English been allowed to

belong to the Five Cantons or nations, and the whole of these Countries long before the said Treaty of Utrecht, were by said nations, put under the protection of the Crown of Great Britain.

That by the Treaty of Utrecht, there is reserved to the French a liberty of Frequenting the Countries of the five nations and other Indians in Friendship with Great Britain for the sake of Commerce, as there is also to the English a Liberty of frequenting the Countries of those in Friendship with France for the same purpose.

That after the Treaty of Utrecht the French built several fortresses in the Country of the Five Nations, and a very strong one at a place called Crown point to the South of Lake Champlain.

That the French Court hath evidently since the Treaty of Aix le Chapelle, made this northern Continent more than ever the object of its attention.

That the French have most unjustly taken possession of part of the province of nova Scotia and in the River S^{t}. John's and other parts of the said province, they have built strong Fortresses, and from this River they will have during the winter and spring Season a much easier Communication between France and Canada, than they have heretofore had, and will be furnished with a Harbour more commodiously situated for the annoying the Brittish Colonies by Privateers and Men of war than Louisbergh itself.

That they have taken possession of and begun a settlement at the head of the River Kennebeck within the bounds of the Province of Main, the most convenient situation for affording support and safe Retreat to the Eastern Indians in any of their attempts upon the Government of New England.

That it appears by Information of the natives, the French have been making preparations for another settlement at a place called Cohass on Connecticut River near the head thereof, where it is about Ten Miles distant from a Branch of Merrimack River & from whence there is a very near and easy Communication with the Abnekais Indians who are Settled on the River S^{t}. Francois, about Forty Miles from the River S^{t}. Lawrence ; and it is certain that the Inhabitants of New Hampshire in which Province this Cohass

is supposed to lye, have been interrupted and impeded by the French Indians from making any settlement there.

That since the Treaty of Aix la Chapelle, the French have increased the number of their Forts in the Country of the great Lakes and on the Rivers which run into the Mississipa, and are securing a Communication between the two Colonies of Louissania and Canada and at the same time putting themselves into a Capacity of annoying the Southern British Colonies and preventing any further Settlement of his Majesties Dominions.

That they have been gradually increasing their Troops in America, transporting them in their ships of war which return to France with a Bare Compliment of Men, leaving the rest in their Colonies, and by this means they are less observed by the Powers of Europe than they would be, if Transports as usual heretofore were provided for this purpose.

That they have taken Prisoners, divers of his Majesties subjects trading in the Country of the Iroquois and other Inland parts, and plundered such Prisoners of several Thousand Pounds Sterling, and they are continually exciteing the Indians to destroy or make Prisoners, The Inhabitants of the Frontiers of the Brittish Colonies which Prisoners are carried to Canada and a price equal to what Slaves are usually sold for in the Plantations is demanded for their Redemption and Release.

That they are continually drawing off the Indians from the British Interest and have lately persuaded one half the Onondaga Tribe with many from the other Nations along with them, to remove to a place called Oswegachie on the River Cadaraqui where they have built them a Church and Fort; and many of the Sennecas the most numerous Nation, appear to be Wave ing and rather inclined to the French And it is a Melancholly Consideration that not more than 150 Men of all the Several Nations have attended this Treaty altho' they had Notice that all the Governments would be here by their Commissioners and that a large present would be given.

That it is the evident design of the French to Surround the Brittish Colonies, to fortifie themselves on the back thereof, to take and keep Possession of the Heads of all the important Rivers, to draw over the Indians to their Interest and with the help of such Indians added to such Forces as are already arrived and may

hereafter be sent from Europe, to be in a Capacity of making a General Attack on the Several Governments; and if at the same time a Strong Naval Force be sent from France, there is the utmost Danger that the whole Continent will be Subjected to that Crown, and that the Danger of such a Naval Force, is not merely imaginary, may be Argued from past Experience, for if it had not been for the most Extraordinary Interposition of Heaven every Sea port Town on the Continent in the Year 1746. might have been ravaged and destroyed by the Squadron under the Command of the Duke de Anville, notwithstanding the then declining state of the French and the very flourishing State of the British Navy and the farther advantage accruing to the English from the possession of Cape Breton.

That the French find by experience they are able to make greater and more sure advantages upon their Neighbours in peace than in War. What they unjustly possessed themselves of after the Peace of Utrecht, they now pretend they have a Right to hold by Virtue of the Treaty of Aix le Chapelle until the true boundary between the English and the French be settled by Commissarys, but their Conquest made during the War they have been obliged to restore.

That the French Affairs relative to this Continent, are under the Direction and constantly Regarded by the Crown and Ministry, who are not insensible how great a Stride they would make towards an universal Monarchy if the British Colonies were added to their Dominions, and consequently the whole Trade of North America engrossed by them

That the said Colonies being in a divided disunited State there has never been any joint Exertion of their Force or Counsels to Repel or defeat the Measures of the French, and particular Colonies are unable and unwilling to maintain the cause of the whole. That there has been a very great Neglect of the Affairs of the Iroquois, or as they are commonly called the Indians of the Six Nations, and their Friendship and Alliance has been improved to private purposes, for the sake of the trade with them and the purchase or Acquisition of their Lands, more than to the public Service.

That they are Supplied with Rum by the Traders in vast and

almost Incredible Quantities, the Laws of the Colonies now in force being insufficient to restrain the Supply, and the Indians of every Nation are frequently Drunk and abused in their Trade, and their Affections thereby alienated from the English; They often wound and Murder one another in their Liquor, and to avoid Revenge flee to the French, and perhaps more have been lost by these means than by the French Artifices.

That purchases of Lands from the Indians by private persons for small Trifling Considerations have been the cause of great uneasiness and discontents, And if the Indians are not in Fact imposed on and injured, Yet they are apt to think that they have been, and indeed they appear not fit to be entrusted at Large with the Sale of their own Lands, and the Laws of some of the Colonies, which makes such Sales void, unless the allowance of the Government be first obtained, seem to be well founded.

That the granting or patenting vast Tracts of Land to private Persons or Companys without conditions of speedy Settlements has tended to prevent the Strengthening the Frontiers of the particular Colony where such Tracts lye, and been predjudicial to the State.

That it seems absolutely necessary that speedy and effectual measures be taken to secure the Colonies from the Slavery they are threatened with—That any further advances of the French should be prevented, and the encroachments already made removed. That the Indians in Alliance or Friendship with the English be constantly regarded under some wise Direction or Superintendency. That endeavours be used for the recovery of those Indians who are lately gone over to the French and for securing those that remain.

That some Discreet Person or Persons be appointed to reside constantly with each Nation of Indians, such Person to have no concern in Trade, and duly to Communicate all advices to the Superintendents—That the Trade with the said Indians be well regulated and made Subservient to the Public Interest, more than to private gain—That there be Forts Built for the Security of each Nation and the better Carrying on the Trade with them—That Warlike Vessels be provided sufficient to Maintain his Majesties right to a free Navigation on the Several Lakes—That all future

Purchases of Lands from the Indians be void unless made by the Government where such Lands lye, and from the Indians in a Body in their Public Councils—That the patentees or possessors of large unsettled Territories be enjoined to cause them to be Settled in a Reasonable time on pain of forfeiture—That the Complaints of the Indians relative to any Grants or possessions of their Lands fraudulently obtained be enquired into, and all injuries redressed—That the Bounds of those Colonies which extend to the South Sea, be contracted, and limitted by the Alleghenny or Apalachian Mountains, and that Measures be taken for Settling from time to time, Colonies of his Majesties Protestant Subjects, Westward of said Mountains in Convenient Cantons to be Assigned for that Purpose, And finally that there be a Union of his Majesties several Governments on the Continent, that so their Councils, Treasure and Strength may be employed in due proportion against their common Enemy. All which is Submitted

Adjourned till 9 a Clock to Morrow Morning.

At a Meeting in the Court House at Albany
On Wednesday the 10th July 1754. A M.

PRESENT.

Joseph Murray and William Smith Esqrs of the Council of New York &

All the Commissioners (Except Henry Sherbourne Esqr one of the Commissioners for New Hampshire.

Mr Franklin reported the Draught in a New Form of a Plan of a Union, agreeable to the Determination of Yesterday, which was Read Paragraph by Paragraph and Debated, And the further consideration of it deferred to the Afternoon. Adjourned to 3 oClock this Afternoon.

At a Meeting &c on Wednesday the 10 July
1754. P. M.

PRESENT

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor. &
the 4 Gentlemen of the Council of New York. &
All the Commissrs for the Respective Governments.

The Consideration of the Plan of a Union was resumed, which Plan is as follows.

PLAN OF A PROPOSED UNION *of the Several Colonies of Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jerseys, Pensylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South-Carolina; for their mutual defence and Security, and for extending the British Settlements in North America.*

That Humble Application be made for an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain, by Virtue of which one General Government may be formed in America, including all the said Colonies, within and under which Government each Colony may retain its present constitution, except in the particulars wherein a Change may be directed by the said Act as hereafter follows.

Presidt Genl. That the said General Government be administred by a President General, to be appointed and supported by the Crown

Grand Council And a Grand Council to be Chosen by the Representatives of the People of the Several Colonies, met in their respective Assemblies

Election of Assemblies. That within Months after the passing of such Act, The house of Representatives in the Several Assemblies that happen to be sitting within that time, or that shall be specially for that purpose Convened, may and shall choose Members for the Grand Council, in the following Proportions; that is to say.

Massachusetts Bay	7
New Hampshire	2
Connecticutt	5
Rhode Island	2
New York	4
New Jerseys	3
Pensylvania	6
Maryland	4
Virginia	7
North Carolina	4
South Carolina	4
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place of first Meeting. Who shall meet for the first time at the City of Philadelphia in Pensylvania, being called by the President General as soon as conveniently may be after his Appointment

New Election. That there shall be a new Election of Members for the Grand Council every Three Years; and on the Death or Resignation of any Member, his place shall be Supplyed by a new Choice at the next Sitting of the Assembly of the Colony he represented.

Proportion of Members after first 3 Years That after the first Three Years when the Proportion of Money arising out of each Colony to the General Treasury can be known the Number of Members to be chosen for each Colony shall from time to time in all ensuing Elections be regulated by that Proportion (Yet so as that the Number to be chosen by any one Province, be not more than Seven nor less than two.)

Meetings of Grand Council. That the Grand Council shall meet once in every Year, and oftner if Occasion require, at such time and place as they, shall adjourn to, at the last preceeding Meeting, or Call. as they shall be called to meet at by the President General on any Emergency, he having first obtained in writing the consent of Seven of the Members to such Call, and sent due and timely notice to the whole.

Speaker. That the Grand Council have power to chuse their Speaker and shall neither be desolved, prorogued, nor continue Continuance. sitting longer than Six weeks at one time, without their own consent or the Special Command of the Crown.

Members Allowance. That the Members of the Grand Council shall be allowed for their Service Ten Shillings Sterling p Diem during their Sessions, and Journey to and from the place of Meeting; Twenty Miles to be reckoned a Days Journey.

Assent of President General. That the Assent of the President General be requisite to all Acts of the Grand Council; and that it be his His Duty. Office and Duty to cause them to be carried into Execution.

power of Prest and Grand Council Treaties. That the President General with the Advice of the Grand Council, hold or direct all Indian Treaties in which the General Interest or Wellfare of the Colonies may be concerned, Peace & War. and make peace or declare War with Indian Nations.

Indian Trade That they make such Laws as they Judge Necessary for regulating all Indian Trade.

Indian Purchases. That they make all Purchases from Indians for the Crown, of Lands now not within the Bounds of particular Colonies, or that shall not be within their Bounds when some of them are reduced to more Convenient Dimensions

New Settlements That they make new Settlements on such purchases, by granting Lands in the Kings Name reserving a quit Rent to the Crown for the use of the General Treasury.

Laws to govern them That they make Laws for regulating and Governing such new Settlements, till the Crown shall think fitt to form them into particular Governments.

Raise Soldiers &ca. That they raise and pay Soldiers, and Build Forts for the defence, of any of the Colonies, and Equip Vessells of Force to guard the Coasts and protect the Trade on the Ocean,

Lakes. Not to impress Lakes or Great Rivers: But they shall not Impress Men, in any Colony without the consent of its Legislature — That for these purposes they have power to make Laws and

Power to make laws duties &ca lay and leavy such general Duties, Imposts or Taxes as to them shall appear most equal and just, Considering the Ability and other Circumstances of the Inhabitants in the several Colonies and such as may be collected with the least Inconvenience to the People, rather discourging Luxury, than loading Industry with unnecessary Burthens.

Treasurer. That they may appoint a General Treasurer, and a particular Treasurer in each Government when necessary, and from to time may order the sums in the Treasuries of each Government into the General Treasury, or draw on them for Special Payments

Money how to issue. as they find most convenient. Yet no money to issue but by joint orders of the President General and Grand Council, Except where sums have been appropriated to particular purposes, and the President General is previously impowered by an act to draw for such sums.

Accounts. That the General accounts shall be yearly settled and reported to the several Assembly's.

Quorum. That a Quorum of the Grand Council impowered to act with the President General, do consist of Twenty five members among whom, there shall be one or more from a Majority of the Colonies;

Laws to be transmitted. That the Laws made by them for the purposes aforesaid shall not be repugnant, but as near as may be agreeable to the Laws of England, and shall be transmitted to the King in Council for approbation as soon as may be, after their passing, and if not disapproved within Three Years after presentation to remain in Force.

Death of prest. Genl. That in case of the Death of the President General, the Speaker of the Grand Council for the time being shall succeed and be vested with the same powers and Authorities to continue until the Kings Pleasure be known.

That all Military Commission Officers whether for Land or Sea Service to act under this General Constitution shall be nominated by the president General; but the approbation of the Grand Council is to be obtained before they receive their Commissions. And all Civil officers are to be nominated by the Grand Council, and to receive the president Generals approbation before they officiate: But in Case of a vacancy by Death or removal of any officer Civil or Military under this Constitution, The Governor of the Province in which such vacancy happens, may appoint till the pleasure of the President General and Grand Council, can be known. That the Particular Military as well as Civil Establishments in each Colony remain in their present State this General Constitution notwithstanding; and that on sudden Emergencies, any Colony may defend itself, and lay the accounts of Expence thence arisen before the president General and Grand Council, who may allow and order payment of the same, as far as they judge such accounts just and reasonable.

Officers how appointed.

Vacancies how supplyed.

Each Colony may defend itself on emergency.

After Debate on the foregoing Plan

Resolved

That the Commissioners from the Several Governments, be desired to lay the same before their Respective Constituents for their Consideration, and that the Secretary to this Board transmit a Copy thereof with this vote thereon, to the Governor of each of the Colonies which have not sent their Commissioners to this Congress.

His Honour proposed to the Board, that agreeable to their

Resolutions of the 24 June they would now consider, the Expediency of Building Forts in the Indian Country. It was determined that considering the present wavering Disposition of the Sennecas, it was expedient that a Fort should be Built in their Country at a place called Irondequat or Tierondequat. Ordered

That a Committee be appointed to consider what further Forts may be necessary in the Country of the Six Nations, and that each Colony name a Member for this Committee.

Ordered

That Mr Chambers and Mr Peters be a Committee to revise the Minutes settled and agreed to by this Board.

Adjourned till to Morrow Morning at 9 aClock.

At a Meeting at the Court House in Albany
on Thursday the 11 July 1754. A. M.

Present

His Honour the Lieut Governor & the four Gentleman of the Council of New York. All the Commissioners from the Several Governments Except William Pitkin Esqr one of the Commissrs for Connecticutt

Mr Welles from the Committee appointed to consider what other Forts may be Necessary.

Reported, "That they had carefully considered the present State of the Frontiers of these Colonies and are of Opinion that Several other Forts at particular Passes are equally necessary with that proposed at Tierondequat. That as there is no probability of their being effected in the present disunited State of the Colonies, and the General Union may make some of them unnecessary. We Apprehend some inconveniences may arise. If the Board should go further into the Consideration of that matter at this Time

His Honour put the Question, Whether the Board would Accept of this Report. And it passed in the Affirmative.

Certain proposals from William Johnson Esqr relative to the Six Nations and for defeating the Designs of the French; Also Certain Considerations offerred by Thomas Pownall Esqr towards a General Plan of the Measures of the English provinces were read at the Board.

It was thereupon Voted that Mr Franklin be desired to give the thanks of this Board to the said Mr Johnson and Mr Pownall and desire them to Suffer Copies of said Papers to be taken by the Commissioners of each Colony for the Consideration of their Respective Governments.

Ordered

That all his Majesties Governments on this Continent may have Liberty from time to time to take Copies of the Proceedings of this Congress or any parts thereof paying for the same, and that no Other Copies be delivered by the Secretary.

Ordered

That upon the Secretarys leaving this Province, The Records of these proceedings of the Commissioners of the Several Governments be lodged in the Secretarys Office in the Province of New York.

Mr Chambers and Mr Peters Reported

That they had Examined these Minutes of the Proceedings of this Congress, and find them right

And then His Honour the Lieut Governor of New York and the Commissioners of the Several Governments rose without any further Adjournment.

New York 21 Sepr 1754—

A true Copy of the Proceedings of the Congress held at Albany in the Months of June & July.

Compared & Examined by me

Peter Wraxall
Secrety

CORRESPONDENCE, &c.

THE EXAMINATION OF COLL°. WILLIAM JOHNSON *taken before a Committee of his Majesty's Council for the Province of New York at the City of New York the third day of October* 1747.

The Examinate Says, He is of Opinion, That some Person who has Influence over the Indians, should be sent to Oswego, and intrusted with presents to be distributed among some of the Six Nations, and the Far Indians, In order to preserve them in their present good Disposition.

That when he first engaged in the Management of the Indian affairs, Their Sachims were chiefly in the French Interest, and had actually received Belts of Wampum from the French, Which they have since given up, and in lieu of those Belts have accepted of others from this Government. That if some proper Measures be not taken to Secure and preserve them in their present good disposition, he is of opinion It may greatly discourage them, as they have met with so many Disappointments by the Expedition not being carried into Execution.

That the Six Nations have been retained from Hunting this Summer by his Excellency the Governour, that they might be ready to Act as Occasion should require, and are now by that means in want of many Necessarys both for themselves and their Families, For which they would apply to him, as he has hitherto Supplyed them therewith: That he has not any Goods at this Time for that purpose, and thinks if they are not supplyed with such Necessarys as they may want, He will be obliged to leave his Settlement in the Mohocks Country, which he believes from what he has heard the Inhabitants there say, would occasion them all to abandon their Settlements.

That he is of Opinion, it would at this Time greatly encourage the Indians, if two Forts were erected as Speedily as may be, One in the Senecas Country, and the other in the Country of the Oneidas.

Wm. JOHNSON.

The above Examination was taken before a Committee of His Majesty's Council the day and year first above Written.

GW. BANYAR D Cl Cur.

Copy Examd. p GW. BANYAR D Cl Cur.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM COL. JOHNSON TO GOV. CLINTON.

14th May 1748

May it Please Yr Excelly

I am to acquaint You Sir of my return from Onondaga three days ago, after the most troublesome fatiugeing Journey I ever took, but the kind Behaviour of the Six Nations to me in a great measure makes up for every thing; having receiv'd and Entertain'd me well I would have wrote to Your Excelly a day or two Sooner, but when the People heard of my return, my House was constantly full of Christians, as well as Indians, and Continues so still, that I have Scarce a Minutes time to do any thing, and then again this News of an Army coming against me, and the Mohawks River in Particular, has taken up my time much, by the People flocking about me, Women roaring & Clapping of Hands, begging for Shelter, so that I have a most miserable life of it, besides the great Risque I run of being hourly destroyed, I would have wrote Your Excelly a full Acct of this News before, but Mr Lyddius told me he sent Your Excelly the Original Letters already. I send Your Excelly herewith My Speech, & Answer of the Five Nations, whereby you can form a Judgment, and pritty near how the five Nations stand Affected at present, I assure Your Excelly I had a great Deal of trouble to bring them to any reason, being quite out of Humour, at the many Disappointments they have met with since the beginning of the War, and now again at being stopp'd from going to Canada, for their People who are in Confinement there, and can have them now for going for, as they are Assured by several Belts of Wampum, sent them last Winter by the Governour of Canada, whereupon I was obliged (in order to prevent their going) to Assure them, Your Excelly would Endeavour to gett them from thence, so that if Your Excelly does not fall upon some speedy way of Getting them from thence soon, I fear it may be the means of Sowering their tempers more then any thing Ever happened Yet, as we hinder them from doing of it, If Your Excelly Succeeds in it, there's nothing will please them more, or Convince them that you have the greatest regard for their Welfare which you always Express. Wherefore if I may make so free, would Earnestly request your Excelly would please to take

it into Consideration speedily, as there is nothing can be done at present would be of more Service to our Indian Affairs, I am desired by the Six Nations to acquaint Your Excellʸ of their want of Provisions, hopeing that You will send them some Indian Corn, Pork or any thing You think proper for their Relief.

I have this Day received Your Excellʸ favour with Orders to Employ so many Men of these Levies, and so many of the Inhabitants, to Scour the Woods, which I shall Immediately put in Execution, altho the Men all Grumble much to find Indian Shoes &cᵃ for 6ᵈ pʳ Day, when I was going to Onondaga I left Orders whenever the Indians Call'd for Men to Scour the woods, that there should be a Number ready for that purpose, and Since that time there has been two Parties out with some Indians, to whom I promised one Shilling pʳ Day, and 18 pence to the Sergeants, as I could not tell what the Allowance was or would be, So hope Your Excellʸ will not Suffer me to be a looser, tho' it is but a Trifle. Had the Assembly allowed the same, for them who are to be Employed as Rangers it would be but reasonable, & then that Service could be done with much more ease and less Trouble for now it will be with Ill will those Men can be got out. Wherefore I wish there could be an Addition made to it, I shall also send up Imediately to call the Six Nations down, again the time mentioned, but should Your Excellʸ not be here at that time, it would be a great disappointment; As they Come down, they will require a great deal of Provisions being scant at home, I fear if they are not Supplyed before that time with some Provisions, they may do a great deal of damage to the poor few Inhabitants remaining on their Plantations, which would intirely ruin them. I would Acquaint Your Excellʸ of one thing, that is whatever Presents you give the Indians now, will be to no purpose, if there be not an Act made before that time, to forbid all persons whatsoever to Buy or Exchange any Arms, Amunition, Clothing &cᵃ. from any Indians of the Five Nations, or from any Indian in Alliance with them, or sell them any Rum or other Spiritous Liquors to the East of Oneida Lake, under pain of Suffering a Year and a Days Imprisonment, and a fine besides of £30.—If that is so, the Indians will reap a Benefit by getting such a Present, but otherwise none at all, I am sorry to find by Your Excellʸˢ Letter, that there is no great hopes

of an Expedition which I doubt will be the ruin of this part of the Country intirely, and the means of giving the Six Nations a worse opinion of us than we can imagine, & all their Allies also, and I shall now have the greatest difficulty that ever I mett with, to reconcile the Indians, when they come to hear that we are to do nothing, wherefore shall long much for Your Excellys coming up, as I assure You Sir they all do.

Captain Lindsay writes from Oswego, that he was told by an Indian, that there was an Army preparing to destroy Oswego, but I dare say that place is in no manner of Danger, this may be that Army which the Prisoners wrote was to come against me and the Mohawks. Wm Johnson

EXTRACT FROM COLo Wm JOHNSON'S LETTER

DATED 10TH AUGUST 1748 TO HIS EXY THE HONBLE GEORGE CLINTON.

May it please your Excellency.

Sir—I have just now gott rid of all the Indians from my House, except the Senecca, called the Grota Younga, who stays to be cured of the Ulcer he has in his leg. I had a prodigious deal of trouble with them all, but thank God the Greatest hurry is now over for a time.

The Flag of Truce is gone by my House eight days ago all well & go on briskly, I sent my French Girle along with the rest.

I have agreed with a Smith &ca to go to the Seneccas for 6 Months for £70, but there is no Bellows there worth a pin, so cannott tell how to do in that Case. I believe I can gett all the rest of the Smiths at the same price, but they are desirous to know how they are to be paid.

Sir—If your Excy thinks to continue the Levys here for any time, I would beg leave to give my opinion of the best manner of doing it, which I think (as there are many of the Officers, as well as Soldiers tired of the Place or Service, the only way is to lett so many of the Officers be continued, who have full & good Companys, or can gett such, for I see there are several of them who have lost almost all their Men, and indeed it is no wonder, for those

are they who had no ommand of their Men. I shou'd be glad to have your Excellency's Directions and Commands therein as soon as you thot proper, because the men will be dispersing & getting Home, without further certainty. Capt Wiliott & his Company is gone, the most of Capt Church's are gone, & the rest are to go, (as I am told) in a few days, so there remains none but Capt Slop there, who kept all his Men but four.

I send your Exy inclosed Receipts for the Provisions of the Troops at Oswego, until last May, and I hope your Exy will grant Warrants, that I may have my Money. I have sent Provisions for another Half Year, wch is to next November.

If your Excellency intends to send a Relief to Oswego of the Militia this Fall, as they who are there expect, I hope you will lett me know it p first, That I may gett the Men ready in time.

I hope your Exy will please to Honour me with a few Lines in answer to this p first Opportunity, as I shall be governed thereby.

Wm Johnson

EXTRACT OF A LETTER Fm COL. JOHNSON.

While writing this I am told by Parson Mills that Mrs Lydius told him that Mons. Pascaud who was order'd to his room when I was at New York upon suspicion of being a Spy, had a Pacquet of Letters to forward to Old France relating to the Clashing between the two Crowns, besides he said at 'York he was of the family of the Pascouds or Packo's at Rochell & concerned in the Bourdeaux Company all which Lydius's family says is false, if so I think he ought to be more narrowly examined but first to seize his Papers, this you may mention to the Govr from me wth my Compliments if you please & apologize for my not writing to him abt it being so hurried by the Inds & Express, or else you may have it fm Mr Saml Stillwell to whom Mr Mills tells me he mentioned it. I should choose it so, as I dont care that my Name shoud be so Odious to the treacherous French

[Here follows Gov: Clinton's Order, dated Aug. 2. 1749, for the delivery to Col. Johnson of all Papers relating to the Depart. for Indian affairs.]

LT. LINDESAY TO COL. JOHNSON.

Oswego 15th July 1751.

This day came here from Niagra the Bunt & the Black Princes. Son with their Fighters he first Gave me an account how it had fared with them, Told me he found two Forts Built by the French Since he went out one at Nigra Carrying Place & the other by John Cair on the River Ohieo he said he heard a bird Sing that a Great many Indians from his Castle and others from the five nations were gone to Swegage all this he said grived him and he Saw things going very wrong & if a stop was not put to it the five nations wou'd be ruined soon. He Said he was come home for he lookt on this place as such That he was both hungry & Poor & hoped as I represented the Governor and Coll Johnson here I would assist him in a little Provisions & Clothing to his Fighters. I told him was sorrey for the loss he had sustained, but was glad to find his thoughts & mine the same as to the Frenchs Building Forts and the Indians going to Swegage & told him how wrong it was in our Indjans going to Cannada & the Consequencess that would attend it in the best light I could, he agreed with me in all I said & promised to do Everything in his Power to have things better managed & likewise promised in the Strongest Terms to all Coll Johnson would desire of him. I gave him Provisions & Cloathing &c: for his People To the Ualue of five Pounds above what he gave me when he spoke which was three Bevers 27th. this day came the Couse & some other Sinaka Sacham, in order to go to Cannada he came to See me & told me he was sent by the consent of the five Nations to go to the Govn. of Cannada about the Building the above said two Forts &c. I told him the consequence of Indjans going there but as he is Intirely French all I said was to no purpose Though he seem'd to own the force of what I said as all the other Indians did & I belive all but him might have been stopt but as things are I could do no more by all the Indjans that have been here I find the French Army landed at Nigra about the 26th July in 20 Large Cannoes To the number of 250 or 300 French with 200 Arondaks & Annogongers they are to gather all the Indians as they pase & allso French & will at least amount to 1000 or 1200 French & Indjans, their designs is to

Drive the English of that are at or near Ohieo & oblidge The Meomies to come and live were they shall order them All the Indjans who have been here say they and all Indians are to joyn them, while the Bunt was here I had him always with me and did all Lay in my Powar to oblidge him he showed the Greatist sence of it & said he would allways do what I asked as he allways had done he is much inclined to us & am Convinced that if Coll Johnson sends for him he will come & take our affairs in hand Hertily & I think he hath it more in his Powar then any to bring things to rights nor is it to be done without him this is my Sentiments & I hope you will pardon my liberty in giveing them, if you approve of what I have said & desire me to bring him down with me ile do my indeavours and he never yet hath refused what I asked of him, there are some French here who mett the Army about Hundred miles to the west of Nigra.

JOHN LINDESAY

To The Honourable
COLL WM JOHNSON

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM COLL JOHNSON OF 26TH MARCH 1753.

I am surprized that Governour Dinuidde would atempt to disprove the Message delivered your Excellency from the Five Nations last Spring ("which was that they at a general Meeting "at Onondaga had resolved not to go to Virginia, on said "Governours call, it not being customary among them to meet or "treat of Affairs in the Woods and Weeds (as they expressed it,) "but desired he might be acquainted, that if he wanted to speak "with them and deliver His Majesty's present, as they understood "he intended, they would meet him at Albany and receive it, "where they expected your Excellency would be present,") by asserting that his Commissioners mett and treated with several of the Chiefs of the six Nations last May, at Logstown, and then delivered His Majesty's Present to them, which he says they were much pleased with, and that the Wampum which he sent to call

or invite the Six Nations to the Conferrence was found remaining in Logstown, when the Commissioners came there last May. The uneasyness which his writeing to you in such a manner gave me, together with the necessity it laid me under of clearing up so dark an Affair, put me on looking strictly into it, and after the closest inquiry I could possibly make, cannot learn that one of the Sachims or Young Men of the Six Nations attempted even to go Virginia last year; They also declare that they have not received any of said Present, but they heard it was given to some Indians living about Ohio, Shawanees &c: which they don't seem well satisfied at. If the String of Wampum, which he was to call the Six Nation by, remained at Logstown, I must own I don't understand how they could receive his Message or Invitation, or return it[1] by me to your Excellency, it is obvious to all who are the least acquainted with Indian Affairs, that they regard no Message or Invitation be it of what consequence or nature it will, unless attended or confirmed by a String or Belt of Wampum, which they look upon, as we our Letters, or rather Bonds. This is a true State of that Affair which as a public Concern, should be glad your Excellency would look further into it, and if what I here affirm should not be sufficient I can get the Interpreters Affidavit who was present when they delivered me the String of Wampum with said Message. The whole Body of the Six Nations would also gladly have it in their power to clear up them two Articles, as they look upon it a great Reflection cast upon them, &c.

Wm Johnson

CAPT. STODDART TO COLL. JOHNSON.

Oswegoe May 15th. 1753

Yesterday past by here Thirty odd French Canoes, part of an Army going to Belle Riviere to make good their Claim there, and by a French man who past this also yesterday in his way to Cajocka, gives me the following Account which he said he Learned from common report in Canada viz. That the Army Consisted of

1 Meaning the String of Wampum which I delivered you.

6 thousand French commanded by Monsr. Marin who is ordered to Ohio, to settle the Limits between us & they that they lay claim on all the Lands on any of the Rivers or Creeks descends. or Terminating in the great Lake, that if he meet with any opposition he is to make good his Claim by force of Arms & to Build Forts in such places he shall think most Convenient to secure their Right, that one Fort is to be Built at Ka-so-no-tia-yo-ga (a Carrying place) & another at Diontaroga, they are also to oblidge all the English they meet with, whither Traders or others to evacuate the place as they look upon all we possess now, as their undoubted right, which they mean to support by force of Arms. That this Expedition is agreeable to orders Received from the Grand Monarque late in the Winter, that he particularly orders them that they Molest not this Post at any Rate in Consideration of Cape Breton, but any other Post the English shall presume to approach or Settle near where they Claim they are to Reduce if not quitted imediately after warning given. That they expected a Decleration of War by the first Vessels from France which were not yet arrived, and was surprised when I told him we had as yet no Intelligence or probability of a War; He also told me there was about 500 Inds. of the Coghnawagees, Scenondedies Onogonguas Oroondoks and Chenundies who would not Engage to go to War with ye. English etc on Ohio, but are employed at so much p month to Hunt for ye. Army. Our five Nations are very uneasy & many who were ye. first and principal Settlers at Swegatsy, are returning to their respective Villages, and seem to have much the Spirit of resentment in them that the French should offer, to take possession, or Settle & Build Forts at Ohio, without their Consents, as they look upon it as their property, and many of them are now Eager to take up the Hatchet, and if they were a little Spirited and Assisted by us, would soon with the assistance of their Allies, frustrate the Scheme of the French Politicians, in their Intended Settlements, which if we tamely suffer, we may bid Adieu to all the Indians on the Continent as they will be ye Masters of them all, and the Consequence will be a Continual Annoyance and Encroachment on our Frontiers, as there is no doubt but they will extend their Dominions in America as far as possible, and now

seems the verry Crisis of time to gain the Indians or for ever loose them, if I hear any thing further Conscerning this Army shall not fail to Communicate it to you at all opportunitys.

B: S—

MR. WOODBRIDGE TO COL. JOHNSON.

Albany June ye 26th 1753.

Honourable Sir.—

When I had the pleasure of waiting on you at your Seat M^{r} Hawley & I propos'd our designs and desired your advice and patronage respecting the same, we was not insensible of your influence with the western tribes of Indians, & their dependance on you. Under a view of these things, we look'd on it as a duty, and a necessary point, to lay our designs of propogating the gospel among the Indians before you: and we look'd on it favourable, that you was pleas'd to countenance the business that we were engaged in, when we came to treat with the Indians, and mentioned that difficulty that would probably impede, the success of the gospel among them, (viz) their intemperate, use of Strong Lyquors, and in their reply to that paragraph, they delivered the following words, and a belt of wompom. In the close of their reply, desir'd me to negociate the affair for them.

The Indians Speech. My Brother Coll Johnson hear me. Now we are both nations together under one head, at Onuhhuhquaugeh. My Brother Whaurohyauchee here we are assembled under one head; I say hear me now: the Govourner and great men have took pity on us. and come so far to bring us to light & religion, that we may go Streight. My Brother, my Dear Brother, pity us, your Batoe is often here at our place, & brings us rum, & that has undone us. Sometimes on Sunday our people drink and cant attend their duty, which makes it extreamly difficult. But now we have cut it off, we have put a Stop to it.

You must not think, one man, or a few men, have done it, we all of us, both old, & young, have done it. It is done by the whole. My Brother I would have you tell the great men at Albany, Skenectetee, and Skoharry, not to bring us any more rum. I would have you bring us powder, lead & clothing, what we want,

and other things what you please, only dont bring us any Strong Lyquors.

My Brother; I Cant alone, my Nephew was the first that spoke, and told us his mind, and laid down a long belt of wompom, they got together & consulted when they were here, and Spake to us in these words:

My unkle, you live nearer your Brother than I do, and you are more intimate together; I would have you tell him to bring no more rum to my place. He has sent a great deal of it there, & we die many of us only by strong drink, I would have you take care that no more is brought to us. Now my Brother pity us rum is not good we have had enough of it.

This is the third time, that I have sent and told you that I would have no more rum brought here.—Once we sent a String of wompom, of which we never heard Since. Once you told us in these words. My Brother I have a fire at your place, and I would take pity on you and Send you what you need, for your Comfort I desire to supply you and the people round you, with goods. We told you we should be glad to have you send us powder, lead, & cloathing, what we need, and anything else what we want; but would send us no rum no strong drink; and now send you a belt of wompom by our Brother; and desire notice may be given to the great men at Albany, Skenactetee, & Skoharry that we would have no more rum sent among us.

Sir Being so unfortunate as to be denied the Satisfaction of waiting on you at Albany, which I had some hopes might have been, as you returned from the court, am obliged to leave the affair in this manner. Heartily wishing your Honour, all temporal, & Eternal Blessings: and am with great esteem, Your Hon^{rs} obliged & most obed^{t}

Humble,
Servant, TIMOTHY WOODBRIDGE

The Hon^{rble} W^{m} Johnson Esq^{r}.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COL. JOHNSON.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOBLE GEORGE CLINTON CAPTAIN GENERAL &CA.

INSTRUCTIONS TO WILLIAM JOHNSON ESQR *one of the Members of his Majesty's Council of the said Province By his Majesty's Commission bearing date herewith Commissionated to summon & invite the six Nations of Indians to a General Meeting at Onondaga for the purposes therein mentioned.*

In pursuance of his Majesty's said Commission herewith delivered to you, You are as soon as may be to invite or summon the said Nations to a General Meeting to be held at Onondaga at such time as you shall think will be most convenient for them and expedient for this Service At which Meeting you are to represent to the said Nations that the Interview proposed with them at Albany this Summer is now thought proper to be defer'd on account of my Indisposition and Expectation of the Arrival of a New Governor here from England in a very short time Who you are to assure them will have an Interview with the six Nations at Albany as soon after as he conveniently can, and make them the Presents usually given on such Occasions That at this Interview they will have an Opportunity of laying before him all their Complaints and Grievances in which they will be redressed without any unnecessary delay And that in the mean time I hope and expect they will all live in perfect harmony and Friendship with their Brethren the English. That if the Interview lately intended had taken Place I proposed then to have taken the Hatchet out of their Hands which was given them to use against the French But being prevented by the Reasons before mentioned have thought proper to commissionate you to meet them at that Place in order to perform that Ceremony which you are to do accordingly and in the strongest Terms to return them thanks for the Assistance they gave their Brethren in the late War.

And whereas their appears at this time some uneasiness among the Mohawk Nations you are to use your utmost Endeavours to appease the same and to urge whatever Arguments you shall think may have a tendency to restore them to good Temper. And Lastly your are further to act and do herein as you shall in

your best Judgment think will be most conducive to his Majesty's Service and most effectually answer the Intention of this Meeting. Given at Fort George in New York the fifth day of July 1753.

LETTER FROM COL. JOHNSON,

WITH HIS PROCEEDINGS AT A CONFERENCE WITH THE MOHAWKS &c

Mount Johnson September 24: 1753

May it please your Yr Excellency

I arrived three days ago from Onondaga, and Agreeable to yow orders have transcribed what passed there between me, and the Six Nations, which I take this opertunity (by Doctor Shuckburgh) to lay before Your Excellency, together with what I said to the Mohawks, & their answer. I mett some French Men there and examined what Pass they had from the Governour of Canadas which I found only allowed them to purchase Ginseng for an established Company of Merchants—peculiar for that Comodity. They told me there were above twenty sails of transports arrived in Canada this Summer, with People to Settle towards Ohio and that several more were Expected at Mississipi among whom they supposed there would be a number of Swiss, this being the most Material, beg leave to refer You to the Doctor for other Occurrences

I am
with the greatest respect
Your Excellency's
Most Humble servt
Wm Johnson.

Mount Johnson
7br the 24th 1753

Governour Clinton

Att a meeting of both Castles of the Mohawks at Mount Johnson July the 26th 1753—

Hendrick their Chief being appointed Speaker Spoke as followes Brother Warraghiiyagey.

Tho it is not usual for us to speak first when sent for, yet as our hearts are full, we creave leave to throw off ye. Burthen

Brother on the receipt of your message two days ago, we were highly rejoiced, to think that you were again raised up, and impowered to receive, and impart reciprocally the news between us & our Bretheren the English. Thereupon we agreed without delay to come down to your House, our late Fire place, kindled

at a troublesome time, even in War. Where should we resort to when any thing lays heavy on our Breasts but where we have always found satisfaction what ever might trouble us. We have reason to be uneasy, and had the Governour sent for us by the Commiss[rs]. whom we hear are appointed, we would not at this time hearken, or move a foot— Gave a string of Wampum

Here follows my Speech to Both Castles of the Mohawks

Bretheren and Freinds.

I congratulate you on your arrival from New York, am glad to see you all well, and bid you welcome here, where your Brother the Governour has impowered me to light up a small fire again, so as to enable me to boil a little Victuals for you while this conference lasts.

Bretheren, I am ordered by your Brother the Governour to let you know, that your behaviour and demands were verry unreasonable and unusual while at New York, and that He, and his Cheif Men were much affected, to find that you whom they looked upon as most sincere friends, should use such loud, and foul words, that almost shook and soyled that firm, & bright chain made by our Wise Forefathers, & continued by their Posterity till now unsullied. I cannot help reproaching you for your unfriendly and rash behaviour, which put your Brother y[e]. Governour and his Great Men, in a verry unsuitable disposition to redress greiviances which were they in ever so good temper, they then had not time to effect. Wherefore I am Commissioned to tell you that whatever may make you uneasy you would defer till the arrival of the new Governour, who is shortly expected, and will have more time to hear all your complaints than the Present, who is prepareing to return to England, that, and his want of Health, has prevented him from meeting the Five Nations this Summer as he intended, to renew the antient Leauge between them, & Us, and quiet your minds. From thence it is that I am appointed by the Government here, to convene the Five Nations at Onondaga, to treat with them there in the Governour's name. Now as you and I have continued to consult each other, in all affairs of consequence, I must desire you would join me in considering what are the most proper steps to be taken with regard to my goeing to the generall

Convention at Onondaga. In ye. mean time I insist upon your liveing in Harmony with us, as usual, who have, and ever will be your best Friends, and conjure you by this Belt of Wampum, that all differences that may have happened be stiffled, and that the Link of that bright Chain which seemed to be loose, may be as strongly connected as Heretofore. Here the Belt was given

Bretheren—

I further expect, that you will be ready with a proper Number of Sachems, & Cheif Men, to attend me thither, and allso att the General Meeting. Here a string of Wampum

The Answer of both Castles of the Mohawks, to the foregoing Speech Spoke by Hendrick at Mount Johnson July 27th 1753

Brother War,ragh,ii,ya,gey.—

We have with willing Ears heard what you said Yesterday, it has made the deepest impression on our Minds, and will never be forgot even by our Youngest People Whom we brought along to hear you once more, Tho we are sensibly affected by our Bretherens neglecting us for some time past, and the private differences we have had with the Inhabitants. Yet for this time we agree to everything You request, and shall bury all animosity, and dispute in a deep Pool so as not to be thought of more. and hope there may never be reason for the like again. Small provocations shall never weaken the Chain of Friendship so long subsisting between Us & our Bretheren, and you may be assured we shall take all oportunitys of dignifying our attachment, as we, and our Forefathers have done formerly.

Here a Belt was given.

Brother War'ragh'ii'ya'gey

You may depend upon our readiness at the first Call to wait on You to Onondaga, & assist You as much as in our power att the Generall Meeting, haveing pitched upon some of our most Intelligent & respectable Men, to attend you there.—

Here a string of Wampum—
and ended—

September the 8th 1753 Entered the Onondaga Castle being mett by the Sachims a Mile on this Side, who said they were allready to receive me, Soon after I was seated, The Red Head

one of the Chief Sachims of that Castle, rose up, and Spoke as follows.—

Brother Warraghiiyagey

As You enter our Meeting Place with wett Eyes, & sorrowfull Hearts, in Conjunction with our Bretheren the Mohawks, we do with this string of Wampum wipe away your tears, and asswage your greif, that you may speak freely in this Assembly

—Here they gave the String of Wampum—

Here follows what I said to the General Convention of the Six Nations att Onondaga spoke by Hendrick the Chief of the Mohawks—

Bretheren of the Six Nations—

The great conscern I am under for the loss of our three great and beloved Brothers, Caghniagarota, Onughsadego, and Gahusquerowana, who in their time made Your Assembly compleat makes it incumbent on me to condole their death, and as it is a great loss to Us in general, I do by these three Belts of Wampum dry up your tears that we may see each other, clear your Throats that we may speak together and wash away their Blood out of our Sight, and cover their Bones with these Strowd Blankets.

Here gave the 3 Belts of Wampum and three Blankets of Strowds—

Bretheren of the Six Nations—

I am now to acquaint You that the Indisposition of the present Governour, and the expectation of ye Sudden Arrival of a new one, has occasioned the interview proposed at Albany between You & him, this Summer to be deferred, upon which I am commissioned to treat with You, and at the Same time to Assure You that ye Succeeding Governour will meet You as soon as he conveniently can, with presents as usual, You will then have an opertunity of laying before him wtever is amiss, which will be redressed you may depend on without any unnecessary delay, till then I expect, all of you will live in perfect Harmony with Your Bretheren the English. A Belt—

Bretheren of the Six Nations

It Greives me sorely to find the road hither so grown up with weeds, for want of being used, and your Fire almost expireing at

Onondaga, where it was agreed by the wisdom of our ancestors that it should never be extinguished. You know it was a saying among them that when the Fire was out here you would be no longer a People. I am now Sent by Your Brother the Governour to clear the Road, and make up the Fire with such wood as will never burn out, and I earnestly desire You would take care to keep it up, so as to be found always the same when he shall send among You. A Belt.

Bretheren of the Six Nations—

I have now renewed the Fire, Swept & clean all your Rooms with a new White Wing, and leave it hanging near the Fire place, that you may use it for cleaning all dust, dirt &ca which may have been brought in by Strangers, no freinds to You, or Us—

A String of Wampum

Bretheren of the Six Nations—

I am sorry to find on my Arrivall among You that the fine Shady Tree which was planted by your Forefathers, for your ease & Shelter should be now leaning, being almost blown down by Northerly Winds. I shall now endeavour to set it upright, that it may flourish as formerly while the roots spread abroad, so that when we sit or stand on them You will feel them shake, should any Storm blow, then should You be ready to secure it.

A Belt—

Bretheren of the Six Nations

Your Fire now burns clearly at the old place, The Tree of shelter, and protection is set up and flourishes, I must now insist upon your quenching that Fire made with Brambles at Swegachey, and recall those to their proper home who have deserted thither, I cannot leave disswadeing you from goeing to Canada, the French are a delusive People always endeavouring to divide you as much as they can, nor will they let slip any opertunity of makeing advantage of it ; 'tis formidable news we hear that the French and some Indians are makeing a descent upon Ohio, is it with your consent or leave that they proceed in this extraordinary manner, endeavouring by force of Arms to dispossess your own Native Allies, as well as y^r Bretheren the English, and establishing themselves. A Large Belt.

Bretheren of Onondaga—

I must remind you of a new Custom lately introduced verry inconvenient for our mutual interest, that is, when you receive news from the Westward, Southward, or any other Quarter, you send it from one Castle to another, till it arrives quite altered from what it was at first. I therefore require you by this Belt of Wampum to follow the old Custom, and send it as far as you intend it should go directly by some of your own Nation

A Belt.

Bretheren of the Seneca's—

As you have always been looked upon as the door of the Six Nations, where all news, especially from the westward, and southward must enter, and go out, we dont hear this Door open as we used to do formerly and belive it to be worn out, and think it necessary to hang on a new one of such Wood as will never decay, the noise of which when it opens, should alarm all the Confederacy, I must now desire you, that whatever you hear of Consequence, you would send it verry distinctly to the Sachims of Onondaga, who will send it directly to your Bretheren, I require also as you are nearest the Western Tribes of Indians that you will endeavour all in your power to draw as many of them into our interest as possibly you can, by which means the Six Nations may continue their strenght and credit A Belt.

Bretheren of Oneida—

am now to sett up your Stone strait, and rub off all Moss and Dirt it may have contracted this time past, My best Advice is to have your Castles as near together as you conveniently can, with the Tuscarora's who belong to you as Children, and the Scanihaderadighroones lately come into your Alliance or Families, which makes it necessary for me to fix a new String to the Cradle which was hung up by your Forefathers when they received the Tuscaroras, as you do now the Scanihaderadighroones to feed, and protect. A Belt.

Bretheren of Cajuga—

I could Heartily wish that you would not live so scattered and that you would not listen to the French, who are a people you never had any Alliance with, or obligation to. It is agreeable

news, that you are about to strenghten your Castle by taking in the Tedarighroones, and shall according to your request give a Pass to those of that Nation here among you, that they, and the rest of them may come and join your Castle unmolested.

A Belt & a Pass

Bretheren of the Six Nations

You must imagine I was much troubled, when imediately after my appointment to meet you at Onondaga to renew, and put in order everry thing relating to your Affairs, to hear that some of your People were returned with Scalps & Prisonners from the Catabaws, with whom you made so solemn a peace last year in my Presence, wh. pleased all your Bretheren the English upon this Continent. the King Yr. Father also approved of it. Now what an everlasting shame must it be to the Six Nations, if this Bloody affair be not imediately made up, if it be possible, I expect at least that you return the Prisonners if any you have, and commit no further Hostilities on that Nation A Belt

Bretheren of the Six Nations,—As I proceed to reform everry thing relative to the old Covenant between you, & us, I must remind you on your part to hold fast by that strong Chain of Freindship made by your Forefathers, the Memory of whose Actions you have always regarded, You may depend upon the part in your Hands, that it shall never slip. I congratulate you in the Name of your Brother the Governour on the two additional Links to the Old Chain the Scánìhádérádìgh'roónes and Tedárrighroones, who without doubt must increase the strenght of it—

A Belt

Bretheren of the Six Nations—

I take this opertunity to return you the three Belts of Wampm. Sent by you to the Governour, with a request to hinder the Rum from comeing among you. He was verry glad to gratifie you in it, and that you had seen the Ill Consequences of that bewitching Liquor, and hopes you will Continue in that Resolution always, The Proclamation forbidding Rum to be Sent, or Sold Any Where among you (Except at Oswego) is already published.

Here Returned them their 3 Belts.—

Bretheren of the Six Nations—

I have only to recommend what I have said in your Brother the Governours Name, to your Serious Consideration, and when you are prepared to return an Answer, I should be glad to hear it by the Lake, where I am encamped, and have a small Present for you, & some provision for your Children—

The Red Head in behalf of the Whole Stood up, & replied thus

Brother Warraghiiyagee—

You may be assured we shall take to Heart all your words, & deliberate upon everry Article, and as it requires some time, you must not think it long, if we do not come down to the Lake where you lay, as you expect to morrow, it may be the next day, tho we consider it cannot be agreeable to you to live in the Woods, we shall make what dispatch we can—

Parted for that Day—

Att a General Meeting of the Six Nations Held at Onondaga September the 10th. 1753—

The Answer of the Six Nations to the foregoing Speech, By the Red Head their Speaker—

Brother Warraghiiyagee—

We are obliged to you for your Speech and Act of Condolence, for the loss of our Three Great Brothers, Caghniagarota, Onughsadego, and Gahuscaroana and we are the more affected, as it was done conformable to our Manner. We are too sensible of what Consequence they were of in this Assembly, To say more would be to Exaggerate our Conscern, which we wish was intirely suppressed. A Belt.

Brother Warraghiiyagee—

We are sorry to hear our Brother the Governour is sick, and we thank you for giveing us Notice of ye. sudden arrival of a new One, we shall suspend some Matters of Consequence 'till then, some of which we shall mention in order, as we proceed to Answer that part of your Speech relative thereto, All of us will chearfully attend when he pleases to call, and are unalterable in our Antient Freindship with our Bretheren the English.

A Belt—

Brother Warraghiiyagee

We acknowledge with equal Concern with you, that the Road between Us has been obstructed, and almost grown up wth. Weeds that our Fire is scattered; & almost extinct, We return you our most hearty thanks for recruiting the Fire with such wood as will burn clear, and not go out, and we promise that we shall with the Utmost Care dress, & keep it up, as we are sensible from what has been said by our Forefathers, that the Neglect of it would be our ruin. A Belt—

Brother Warraghiiyagee—

We know verry well the Use of the White wing you recommended and are determined to use it to sweep out whatever may hinder the Fire from burning with a pure Flame—

A String—

Brother Warraghiiyagee

You may depend upon our Care in defending the Tree which you have replanted from the Inclemency of the high Winds from Canada, we are full of acknowledgements for your Care and Admonition, and be Assured we shall watch everry threatning Cloud from thence, that we may be ready to prop it up.

A Belt

Brother Warraghiiyagee We Rejoice that we See the Fire burn pure where it should do, the Tree of Shelter look Strong and flourishing, & you may depend upon our quenching that False Fire at Swegachey, and doeing all we can to recall our Brothers, too often seduced that way. tho we did not conceive we had done so much amiss in goeing thither, when we observe that you White People pray, and we have no nearer place to learn to pray, & have our Children babtized than that, however as you insist upon it, we will not go that Way nor be any more divided, I must now say it is not with our Consent that the French have committed any Hostilities at Ohio, We dont know what you Christians English & French together intend, we are so Hemmed in by Both, that we have hardly a Hunting place left, in a little while if we find a Bear in a Tree there will imediately appear an Owner of the Land to Challenge the Property, and hinder us from killing it which is our lively hood, We are so perplexed between both, that we hardly know what to say or think. A Belt—

Brother Warraghiiyagee. In behalf of our Bretheren of this Castle of Onondaga, I am to say, that we shall hereafter transmit to our Bretheren the English, whatever we hear of Consequence Invariable & directly, according to the Old Custom.

A String—

Brother Warraghiiyagee—

The Seneka's do know themselves to be the Door of the Six Nations, and thank you for renewing it, as we are sensible it was much wanted, and with such durable Wood as will not rott, we shall be quick to hear when it opens, and shall communicate distinctly what news is passing to our Brothers at Onondaga, in order to be dispatched to our Bretheren the English, and shall be verry sollicitous to invite all Nations to enter at that Door, & shall endeavour to keep the Roads to it Clear & Open. A Belt

Brother Warraghiiyagee. We thank you heartily for clearing the Oneida Stone, and setting it up right, and shall agreable to your advice, collect our People together, also the Tuscarora's be they scattered where they may, and the Scaniha-deradighroones we do unite with us, a small Party of whom are here present to hear you, and to take their share of our Brother the Governours Bounty We also return thanks for the New String fixed to the Cradle contrived by our Forefathers to receive those New Bretheren we intend to nourish and provide for

A String.

Brother Warraghiiyagee The Cajugas say they have not been more conversant with the French than the rest of the Six Nations, they will endeavour to keep themselves as compact as they can, and thank you for this Intuition, being sensible it is for their own good. They also return you thanks for the Pass you were pleased to give to the Tedarrighroones to come and unite with them to strenghten their Nation, Three of whom are now here to partake in the name of their Nation of the Intended Present. A Belt

Brother Warraghiiyagee. We are heartily conscerned with you that some of our People went out against the Catabaws, and hope you will not take it amiss if we do not give you a difinitive answer upon that Head, at present we can only desire your

Patience till the Fighters are all Home, there being verry few Here, when we shall in each Castle consult them, and return an answer at the first meeting with the new Governour This is in part what I proposed to suspend till his comeing, as I mentioned before I returned the Second Belt.

Brother Warraghiiyagee

You may depend upon whatever can be expected on our part, to bring the Covenant Chain to its former Brightness. It was high time, being almost eat thorough with Rust, for want of proper Care and Inspection. We are very glad you are pleased that we have connected thereto the Scanihaderadighroones, and Tetarighroones. All of whom we daily expect among us.

A Belt

Brother Warraghiiyagee, We Return you a great many thanks for stopping the Rum coming to the Six Nations and would be verry glad the same Prohibition would have effect at Osswego.

To the last I replied, He intending to continue his speech. That could not be at present, likewise told them it would do great pleasure to the French, while we were forbid to sell Rum at Osswego, they sold what they thought fitt at Niagara a place which was forcibly taken from them. I expected they would first hinder the French Selling Liquor there before they proposed haveing it stopped at Osswego, especially as it is a place agreed on by all the Six Nations to be in y^e^ Hands of the English, as a general Mart for all their necessities, as well as for the sundry wants of all the Indians to y^e^. Southward and Southward. They replyed imediately by the same speaker they would go to Niagara, & forbid the French Selling any more Rum or Spiritous Liquors, and also said that they had not given that place to the French, but that they settled there without the Consent of the Six Nations.

A Belt

Brother Warraghiiyagee

We are pleased with everry thing you have said, and return you a great many thanks for speaking in our own way, which is more intelligible to us, because more conformable to the Customs & Manners of our Forefathers. We earnestly beg that if we call or send for you, or the Mohawks, or the Seneca's that you will

not neglect comeing, We have often stretched out our necks expecting to see you, but have been disapointed, We hope for the future you and they will always appear and attend the meeting, as we expect a Mutual Correspondence, we shall not omit sending all the news that arrives with us, and hope the same from you directly— A Belt

SUNDRY WARRANTS AND ALLOWANCES IN FAVOR OF COL. JOHNSON. 1746 TO 1753.

1746.		
1 Dec.	For supplying Detachments of Militia wth provis: from 15th March 1745 to 15 Dec. 1746	661.2 0
"	For supplying the double Garrison of regular Troops, at Oswego with prov^{s} from 23d June 1746 to 23 Dec. 1746.	228.–.–
1747		
April 29	Allowance for arrears due him on ditto	24 –
June 19.	For supplying the Troops at Oswego from 1st Nov. 1746 to 1st May 1747.	228 –
1749		
Aug. 8.	For the like from 1 May 1747 to 1 Nov 1747	228 – –
	For the like 1 Nov. 1747 1 May 1748	228. –
	For the like 1 May 1748 to 1 Nov. 1748	228. –
	For the like 1 Nov. 1748 to 1 May 1749	228. –
	For the Supplying Detachment of Militia at Oswego from 15 Dec. 1746. to 15 May 1748 on receipt	1292. –
	For supplying a double garrison of Regulars at Oswego from 23 Dec. 1746 to 23 May 1748 on rec^{t}	646 –
	For Extraordinary charges in supplying that garrison same date on rec^{t}—	200
1750	For oats on receit	150.–
	For Maintenance of French prisoners	36.8
	For do their attendants	36.8–
	For do. of Gents who came at another time	42.–

1750		
	For do for their attendants	42.–
	For money advanced to Gunsmith at Cayuga	300.–.–
	For Goods furnished to Mohawks	60.–
	For supplies to Militia at Oswego from 15 May to 15 Nov 1748	668.11.4
	For Express to Oswego to withdraw the Militia in 1748, £4. & money advanced for a Birch Canoe £4	8.–
	To Capt Dow for advances to Coll Johnson in 1749 for Clothing French Prisoners	646.–
1753.	To Coll. Johnson to be distributed Among the Indians at Onondaga	250.–
	For expences on that voyage	200.–
	For Goods furnished the smiths sent among the Indians in 1750 & 1751. For sundry other disbursements by him for the services of the Colony & what is still due him for supplying additional Garrison at Oswego exclusive of what he is to receive out of the Oswego fund for supplying the ordinary Garrison there with provs ———	733–6.2½

COL. JOHNSON TO LT. GOVR. DELANCEY.

8th Septr. 1754.

May it please your Honour

I have this day received yours of the 1st Inst, with your orders which were dated the 14th ulto. I must beg leave to observe to your Honour, that the Inhabitants of the Mohawks River, (who are daily in fear of sharcing the same fate of the Eastern Settlements being now the only Frontier) will think it a great hardship to be sent to Oswego, or any where else, while they are so exposed to the Enemy. I am certain the Indians would also think the same, being as much afraid as our People. besides, my sending them to Oswego, on hearing the Frenches design of attacking that place, may be too late, for the French are very private and

expeditious in such attempts. Therefore with submission, I should think it best if y^r^. Honour approves of it, to detach what number of men you may judge necessary for the reinforcement of that garrison, out of the several Companies usual and an active officer to Command them. Those men when so draughted, and the officer appointed, either to be sent there immediately, or ordered to hold themselves ready to march thither at the first call. but then, I expect that they will be assured of their Pay, as there are many who served there last War yet unpaid, notwithstanding they had the Coll^os^. promise, who is now every day dunned and threatened by them. In the next place, there is the transportation of them and their Provisions to be considered, this would be too hard upon me to engage for, and otherwise I dont see how I can oblidge them to march thither.

As to what is in my power I have done, and shall continue it, viz^t^. to see that the Regiment be well armed & equipped agreeable to the act of Assembly also duly exercised, & warned to hold themselves in readiness to march against the Enemy at a moments notice but unless we have a proper number of woodrangers continually scouring the Woods, together with some of our best Indians (whom I beleive may be got for pay) to give us intelligence of the enemys approach, our numbers be them ever so well armed, and provided will avail but little, for as they live so scattered it will require three or four days notice at least to muster any considerable number of them together. Our safety depends greatly on haveing early Intelligence so that we may be able to guard against a surprise.

I find your Honour was to send a Lieut Coll^n^. Commission to M^r^. John Ranslear of Green Bush, and another to Major Glen, as soon as I hear they have received them, I shall comply with your orders. M^r^. Glen refused the same Commission five or six years ago, so that I dont know whether he will accept of one now.

Your Honour is pleased to order that I should consult them gentlemen in the choice of officers, which I shall as far as is consistent with my Duty, and the good of the service & w^th^out the least regard to Party Divisions. I can assure you Sir, that I never made use of any such means, as is evident by the many Vacancys now in the Regiment, which I believe your Honour is

sensible I had in my power to fill up ever since I had the Commission. but I was under no necessity of having recourse to such measures, tho I belive it has been usual.

My only aim or desire is to have officers fitt to command, and that I could depend upon, whenever there was occasion for them. As I am sensible the Militia is at present our only dependance or safeguard, you may be assured Sir, of my keeping it in as good order, and readiness as my Power will admit of, but this I must say, that, were the law relateing thereto, more ample at present it would be of great service. I am with all due respect.

Your Honours

Most obedient Humble servant

Wm Johnson

Mount Johnson
7br. 8th 1754

Governour DeLancey

Endorsed

8 Sepr. 1754
From Col. Johnson
16 Sepr. Read in Council.

COL. JOHNSON TO THE BOARD OF TRADE.

New York, 17th. Janry. 1755.

My Lords

I did my self the honour of writing to your Lordships the 18th past from Mount Johnson, to which I beg leave to refer.

By the inclosed Copies of Genl. Shirleys Letters & mine your Lordship will see what past between his Excellency & me relative to his New Commission & Instructions.

Mr Shirley hath thought proper to agree to my continuing to to act under Genl. Braddocks Commission & upon talking matters over with him, that I shall meet the Indians at Oswego early this spring and endeavour to dispose them to second such operations as he may determine on for His Majestys Service.

In one point, & it is a material one, Genl. Shirley will not be so explicit as I wuld wish, it is in regard to Agents amongst the Indians employed and paid by him. I cannot pretend to carry on

this service in a proper manner whilst I have reason to suspect my measures may possibly be opposed & probably confused, by Persons not employed by me nor under my Direction. I have told Mr. Shirley these measures I apprehend are not agreeable to the Tenor of my Commission & represented to him their ill consequences; his answers leave me in doubts and suspicions. I shall however thus circumstanced do the best I can for the public service & fulfill my Duty to His Majesty to the utmost of my Power & Abilities.

My Lords

Since I have been at New York I received Mr. Secratary Pownalls Letter to me bearing date the 9 October, which your Lordships directed him to write.

I think myself extreamly happy that my Endeavours for His Majestys Service in Indian Affairs have met with your Lordships Approbation; to receive the assurances thereof in Mr. Pownals Letter before me by Direction from your Lordships, is an honour wch I not only highly prize but animates me with the ambition of retaining & improving your Lordships favourable Dispositions towards me.

I have read & considered the copy of the Instructions given to Sir Charles Hardy our present Governer upon the complaints of the Indians relative to their Lands. Tho I am fully assured of that Gentlemans sincere & disinterested Inclinations to exert the powers entrusted with him in executing these Instructions to the full extent of his authority, Yet I conceive that will be ineffectual without an Act of the Legislature of this Province to destroy the Patents complained of. Whether such an Act can or will be obtained, I very much doubt.

But on this point in general, as well as to my Sentiments upon the important Subject of the British Indian Interest & that more particularly as it relates to the Northern Confederacy, I beg leave to refer your Lordships to the Papers I herewith transmit you. As my Administration of Indian affairs makes one whole Section in these Papers, & is put in the light of a Justification, your Lordships will permit me to give you the reasons for my name being so frequently mentioned therein.

I am considerable enough to have Enemies & to be envied. I

have been informed that Genl. Shirley & some other Persons have censured my Conduct since I have had the honour to superintend Indian Affairs, the unfaverable Terms I have been on with that Gentn. his causeless Jealousies & his unmerited Resentment, with some other Grounds, give me reason to suspect, my Management has been or may be misrepresented to your Lordships or perhaps some of His Majestys Administration, hence it came, that some parts of the second section take more notice of me than perhaps might otherwise have been needful.

That of a Fixt Fund I must beg to press on your Lordships as a Point absolutely necessary for carrying on Indian Affairs, so as to put them upon a solid footing & extend them to these beneficial purposes without a steady & connected view to wch I would neither chuse to dispose of the public money, nor continue in the Administration of these Affairs, a precarious Fund may not only fail at a critical Juncture but be attended with Obstructions almost equally fatal; I am willing to be under the severest checks & this with regard to my uprightness in money matters wch even mistrust itself can suggest, for my motives in pushing these points, are the nature of the service & the good of the public.

As to my own appointments, Prudence & justice to myself, make it necessary that I should be explicit to your Lordships. Every thing of this kind is yet unsettled. While I had no public character in Indian Affairs, I sustained very considerable Expences and these I will be bold to say happily applied. From the time I engaged under my present Commission to this day, I wholly gave up my Trade. My attention to my estate and every other Improvement of my private Fortune, have been & must be if I continue laid aside as far as they relate to my personal application. I am if I continue in the administration of them, determined to devote my time & Labours wholly to Indian affairs. At all meetings either at my House or elsewhere, not only the officers belonging to this service but many other Persons who generally attend on these occasions are entertained at my Expence, & when the meeting is at Onondaga or Osswego the Expences are increased the journey is long and very fatiguing.

My Lords

A Thousand Pounds sterling p annum I do assure your Lordships will not be Equivalent for the advantages I give up — & the additional Expences this Employment will put me to. And here my Lords I crave the honour to introduce the Secretary for Indian affairs, he hath applied himself for some years with great Dilligence & with answerable sucess to make himself master of the Department to w^ch^. His Majesty's Commission appointed him. I am fully convinced from my Experience of his assistance and Behaviour that no Person I know of is more equal or worthy of this Employment, his abilities, the Importance & fatigue of the office do in my opinion deserve £200 – p Annum sterling with an allowance for a Clerk and other charges.

Upon these Points both with regard to M^r^. Wraxall & myself I do not chuse to apply to General Shirley for as M^r^. Wraxall sign manual is in the form of it not adapted to the present administration of Indian affairs, I hope your Lordships will judge it proper that both of us may be honoured with special commissions from His Majesty, provided Indian affairs continue in the channel which is at present favoured with your Lordships approbation, when our salarys may be determinately fixt.

I return my Lords to the Papers before referred to & to the important affair of the Indians Lands; to lay before your Lordships all the particular circumstances of the Grants & Patents in the several Provinces is beyond my power and for effectual Expedients I apprehend His Majestys servants learned in the Law, may fall on better methods than any which are within the compass of my abilities to propose.

To the Right Hon^ble^
and Hon^ble^
The Lords Commis^rs^. of
Trade &^c^.

My Lords
Your Lordships
Most Obedient
& most hum serv^t^.

My Lords—having had my time so entirely engaged here since I had y^e^ honor of your Lordships commands to lay my sentiments before you on y^e^ Plan of measures your Lordships propose & being obliged to return directly with y^e^ best Expedition I can to

Mount Johnson I am not able at this juncture to answer to your Lordships Commands. I will do it as sone as I am able. Permitt me my Lords to referr myself in general on this head to y^e^ Letters I have had y^e^ honor to write your Lordships & in Particular to M^r^ Pownall who I find is going to England as he knows every particulor of my sentiments & is also perfectly acquainted with Indian Affairs as they stand connected with y^e^ Interest of y^e^ Continent & His Majesty's service

MINUTES OF A COUNCIL HELD AT ALEXANDRIA.

At a Council held at the Camp at Alexandria in Virginia April 14^th^ 1755.

PRESENT

His Excellency Edward Braddock Esq^r^ General & Commander in Chief of his Majestys Forces in North America.

The Hono^ble^ Augustus Keppel Esq^r^ Commander in chief of his Majestys Ships and Vessels in North America.

The Hon^ble^ William Shirley Esqr. The Hon^ble^ Robert Dinwiddie Esq^r^ The Hon^ble^ James De Lancey Esq^r^. The Hon^ble^ Horatio Sharpe Esq^r^ The Hono^ble^ Rob^t^ Hunter Morris Esq^r^.

The Generals Commission having been read and the Articles of his Instructions from his Majesty relating to a common Fund to be established in the Colonies for carrying on the services under the Generals direction, and also the article relating to the measures to be taken for engaging the Indians in his Majesty's Interest. His Excellency the General made the following proposals.

1^st^ That a fund should be established conformable to his Instructions abovementioned and to sir Thomas Robinsons Letter to the several Governors dated Octob^r^ 26. 1754.

2^d^ It being of the utmost importance that the five Nations of Indians and their Allies should be gained and secured to the British Interest, that a proper person should be sent with full powers from him to treat with them, and that Colonel Johnston, appearing to his Excellency the fittest person for that purpose, should be employed in it.

And in order to promote the success of the Treaty, the General proposed that presents should be made to the said Indians in which he desired the opinion of the Council as to the value to which the said presents should be made, and the manner of their being Supplied.

3 His Excellency acquainted the Council that he proposed to attack the French Forts at Crown point and Niagara and desired their Opinion whether it was advisable that the Reduction of Crown point should be undertaken with the forces agreed to be Supplyed by the Several Colonies concerned in it amounting in the whole to 4400 Men and whether it was their opinion that Colonel Johnston was a proper person to Command in Chief the said service.

4th His Excellency considering the Fort at Oswego as a Post of the greatest importance for facilitating the proposed attack of Niagara, and securing the retreat of the Troops to be employed in that service, and having been informed of Its present Defenceless condition & of the weakness of its Garrison acquainted the Council that he should order it to be reinforced by the two Independent Companies of New York and two Companies of Sir William Pepperels Regiment, and desired to have their opinion whether it would not be proper to build one or more Vessels upon the Lake Ontario for asserting his Majesty's right to that Lake as well as for a Security to the Forces to be employed in the attack of Niagara, and of what burthen or Force the said Vessels should be.

The Members of the Council having taken into Consideration these several matters in the order proposed by the General. The Governors present acquainted his Excellency that they had severally made application to their respective Assemblies for the establishment of the common fund proposed, but had not been able to prevail upon 'em to agree to it, and gave it as their unanimous opinion that such a Fund can never be established in the Colonies without the aid of Parliament. They likewise declared that having found it impracticable to obtain in their respective governments their proportions expected by his Majesty towards defraying the expense of his service in North America, that they were unanimously of opinion that it should be proposed to his Majesty's Ministers to find out some method of compelling

them to do it and of Assessing the several Governments in proportion to their respective abilities, their shares of the whole money already furnished and which it shall be thought proper for them further to furnish towards the General expence of his service They also assured the General that they would still continue to use their utmost endeavours to raise all possible supplies but were unanimously of Opinion that the Kings Service in the Colonies and the carrying on of the present Expedition must be at a stand unless the General shall think proper to make use of his credit upon the Government at Home to defray the expence of all the Operations under his direction

The Members of the Council likewise agreed that it was highly necessary to send some person with full powers from the General to treat with the five Nations of Indians and to secure them and their Allies to the British Interest and that Coll Johnston was the fittest man to be employed in that Business and for that purpose that the Sum of £800 Sterl should be paid into his hands to be laid out by him in such Commodities as he should judge most proper for the Northern and Western Indians £500 of which should be employed for the five Nations and their Allies and £300 for the Western Indians to be given at Oswego. And as to the manner of supplying the presents the several Govrs agreed that if the General for the sake of Dispatch thinks proper to advance the money the Colonies ought to replace it according to the proportions settled in the Plan of Union by the Commissioners at Albany last year together with all contingent Charges attending it, and that it was their opinion that the several Governments would readily consent to do it within the space of three months.

The Council expressed their Approbation of the Attack proposed by the General upon Crown point and Niagara as being undoubted encroachments made by the French upon his Majestys Dominions in America and gave it as their Unanimous Opinion that Coll. Johnston was the properest person to have the Command of the Expedition against Crown point. They also agreed to the necessity of strengthening the Fort and reinforcing the Garison at Oswego, and advised the building of two Vessels of sixty Tons upon the Lake Ontario with all possible Dispatch according to a

Draught to be sent by Commodore Keppel who desired that an account might be laid before him of the cost of 'em and undertook to defray it and it was agreed that the direction of the affair should be Committed to Gover[r] Shirley.

It was likewise unanimously agreed that in case of the Reduction of Fort Duquesne whatever Garison the General should think proper to leave there, should be maintained, and the expence of additional works which he should think necessary to make there, should be defrayed by the Governments of Virginia Maryland, and Pensylvania, and that if the General should think it necessary to build a ffort upon Lake Erie, and to order one or more Vessels to be built for the Defence of that Lake, that the expence attending both those measures should likewise be defrayed by those three Governments.

Examined

W. Shirley Secr[t]y.

COMMISSION APPOINTING COL. JOHNSON MAJOR GENL.

By His Excellency William Shirley Esq[r]. Captain General and Commander in Chief in and over his Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, and the Lands and Territories thereon depending, Vice Admiral of the same, and Colonel in his Majesty's Army.

To William Johnson Esquire Greeting.

Whereas by my Messages on the 13[th] & 15[th] Days of last February to his Majesty's Council & the House of Representatives for the aforesaid Province in Great and General Court assembled, recommending to them to make provision for carrying on an Attempt, in conjunction with some of his Majesty's other Neighbouring Governments to erect a Strong Fortress upon an Eminence near to the French Fort at Crown point, & other Services in the said Messages express'd ; In Answer to which the said two Houses of the aforesaid Assembly by their Message to me on the 18[th]. of the same February among other things therein contained desir'd me forthwith to make the necessary preparations for such an Expedition ; to appoint & Commissionate a General Officer to

command the same, to advise his Majesty's other Goverments therein after mention'd of the said Design, and in such manner as I should think most effectual to urge them to join therein, and to raise their respective proportions of Men as follows, viz. New Hampshire six hundred, Connecticutt one thousand, Rhode Island four hundred, New York eight hundred, or such larger proportion as each of the said Governments should think proper, and to cause twelve hundred men to be inlisted for the Service of the said Expedition, as the proportion of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, as soon as it should appear that the three thousand men propos'd to be rais'd by the before mention'd Colonies of New Hampshire, Connecticutt, Rhode Island and New York, should be agreed to be rais'd.

And Whereas in consequence of my aforesaid Message recommending the said Expedition, & of the Resolves of the Assembly of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay thereupon, Copies of both which I transmitted to the before mention'd four neighbouring Governments together with a Letter to each of them, urging them to join in the same, as propos'd by the Assembly of the Massachusetts Bay, and nominating you to be the Commander in Chief of the Provincial Forces to be employ'd in the said Expedition: The Governments of New York, New Hampshire, Connecticutt & Rhode Island have agreed to raise in the whole two thousand nine hundred men for his Majesty's Service in the aforesaid Expidition, w^ch^. with fifteen hundred Men since agreed to be rais'd for the aforesaid Service will make up 4100 Men, and acquiesc'd in my Nomination of you to be Commander in Chief of the said Forces; and Whereas his Excellency Major General Braddock Commander in Chief of all his Majesty's Forces in North America, hath since approv'd of my Appointm^t^. of you to the said Command: Now reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Fidelity, Courage and good Conduct, I do, by Virtue of the Authority to me granted in & by his Majesty's Royal Commission under the Great Seal of Great Britain, and in consequence of the several proceedings of the Governments of the aforesaid Colonies of New England and New York, and of the Approbation of Major General Braddock, Appoint you to be Major General

and Commander in Chief of the Forces rais'd & to be rais'd by the aforesaid five Governments or any of them for the Service of the aforesaid Expedition; as also of such Indians as shall assist his Majesty in the same.

You are therefore to take upon you the Command of the said Forces, and diligently to execute the Duty & Office of Commander in Chief of the said Expedition, according to such Instructions as you shall receive from me bearing even date with these Presents: and to follow such further Orders as you shall from time to time receive from me or any your superior Officer herein: hereby also requiring all Officers & Soldiers employ'd or to be employ'd by the aforesaid five Governments in the said Expedition to obey you as their Commander in Chief.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Arms the sixteenth Day of April in the twenty eighth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the second, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King Defender of the Faith, &c^{a} and in the Year of our Lord Christ 1755.

By his Excellency's Command

Sec'ry.

COMM^{N}. OF MAJOR GENERAL TO WILLIAM JOHNSON ESQ^{R}.

By the Hono^{ble}: James DeLancey Esq^{r}. his Majesty's Lieutenant Governour and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of New York and the Territories Depending thereon in America.

To William Johnson Esquire Greeting

Whereas upon the Recommendation of his Excellency William Shirley Esq^{r}. Captain General and Governour in Chief of his Majesty's Province of the Massachusets Bay, That Government and the several other Governments of New Hampshire, Connecticut Rhode Island and this Province, have respectively raised a body of Men, amounting in the whole to about four thousand, to be employed in an Attempt to erect a Strong Fortress upon an Eminence near the French Fort at Crown point; And for removing the Incroachments of the French on his Majesty's Lands there.

And his said Excellency having nominated you to be the Commander in Chief of such Provincial Forces the said several Governments have acquieceed therein And whereas his Excellency Major General Braddock Commander in Chief of all his Majesty's Forces in North America hath since approved of your being appointed to that Command And I reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Fidelity Courage and good Conduct Do therefore by Virtue of the powers and authority to me given by his Majesty constitute and appoint you to be Major General and Commander in Chief of the Forces raised and to be raised by the before mentioned five Governments for the Service of the said Expedition, as also of such Indians as shall assist his Majesty in the same. You are therefore to take upon you the Command of the said Forces and diligently to execute the duty and office of Commander in Chief of the said Expedition duely observing the Instructions which you will receive herewith from me bearing even date with these presents. And all the Officers and Soldiers of this province employed in that Service And all others whom it may Concern are required to obey you as their Commander in Chief and to pay due obedience to this your Commission.

Given under my hand and Seal At Arms at Fort George in the City of New York the day of in the twenty eighth year of the Reign of our Soveraign Lord George the Second by the Grace of God of great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &ca. And in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty five.

GENL. JOHNSON TO LT. GOV. DELANCEY.

Sir—

I did myself the honour of writing you the 16 Inst. to wh I beg leave to refer.

Upon farther consideration I think Four more 18lbs. and Four more Feild peices will be necessary and I must beg the favour of you to represent this to the Governments concerned that timely care may be taken to supply them. It is not to be doubted that

if the enemy hath not already some Informations of our Design, they will soon be fully apprized of it & consequently prepare for their Defence as compleatly as may be in their Power. It appears therefore to me that 6 Eighteen pounders will be too few to support our attack with that vigor as may facilitate our success. Should we be so happy as to take Possession of their Fort, they may render their own Cannon unserviceable, or we may find more than they leave us necessary to defend our conquest and cover our Troops.

Four Feild peices I think too few for the number of Troops destined for this Service, and upon mature reflection it will I beleive appear so without my entering into the particular reasons.

I dont find there is any Establishment for a Quarter Mast. Genl. such an officer appears to me quite necessary, and that great judgment should be used in the choice of him and that he should be dispatched to me as soon as possible to confer upon our future Proceedings.

An Engineer is of equal if not greater necessity, who should without loss of time take a view of the Artillery &c. & make his report to me.

I hope Sir you will without Delay take the necessary measures upon these Articles.

I am
most respectfully
Sir your Honours
most obedt & most
hum Servt
Wm. Johnson.

Albany 29 May
1755

To the Honble
James DeLancey Esqr &c. &c.

I dont write Govern. Shirley on those Heads, as there is at present no direct opertunity.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Sir

Seth the Head Sachem of the Indians living near Shohary, and the leading Sachems of the upper and lower Mohock Castles have made heavy Complaints to me of the white People in those Parts Selling Rum to the Indians, represented the ill Consequences thereof, and prayed that it may be prevented.

Your Honour I persuade myself is sensible, this Selling of Rum to the Indians has been ever attended with fatal Consequences to the publick Interest with them, and at this Juncture, must be more then commonly detrimental;

If an act of the Legislature cannot be obtained to prohibit this Sale of Rum to the Indians without any Limitation of Time, I do in the most earnest manner request your Honour, that you will apply to the Assembly to form an Act with such Pains, & Penalties, against this Sale of Rum to the Indians, during the present Situation of publick affairs, as may be (so far as possible:) effectual to prevent it. Unless such a Law is made, and the observance of it secured in the strongest manner, the General Interest in my humble opinion, will infallibly suffer, and those measures now in agitation for the Honour of his Majesty's Crown, and the Security & Welfare of his Subjects in these Parts, be greatly embarrassed.

I am with great Respect
Sir
Your Honours
Most obedient Servant
Wm. Johnson.

Mount Johnson 2d of June 1755.

P. S. there should be a clause in the Act to prevent Peoples buying their Arms Amunition Cloathing &ca. or exchangeing.

To Govr. DeLancey.

Sir

As Mr. Banyar writes me that my Pattent is ready for the seal, I hereinclose a note of Hand for the amount of your Honours

Fees, which I hope you will accept. The many disappointments I have lately mett with, together with my purchase of Lands, Ginseng &ca puts it out of my power at present to advance that sum ; otherwise I would have paid it with pleasure.

I am

Yrs

Wm. Johnson.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Sir

I returned last night from the Conhogohery Indian Castle having first been at the Mohock Castle.

At both Settlements I have fixt on Places to build them Forts. At the hither Castle I propose it to be nearly on a Line with Fort Hunter, to take in the Church as a Bastion & to have a Communication Pallisado between the two Forts, which will be a small Expence & in case of an Attack may be of great Service by mutually assisting each other, and if drove to the necessity of quiting the One they may still maintain the other.

At Conogohery I propose it on the Flat Land out of Gun Shot from the Hill where the Old Block houses now stand, out of wch upon the Point of the said Hill I propose to erect a good Block House. On the rear of the intended Fort, there is a clear improved Vale run of more than half a Mile, on the left Flank it will be assisted by the said Block house on the point of the Hill, a Fire between wch and the Fort will clear the open Land on that side; the Land is all clear and cultivated in the Front; On the right side there are a few Bushes & small Wood to clear, when all will be open on that side for more than half a Mile, One of the Bastions to serve for a Church.

I have not been able as yet to contract for building either of these Forts, but I hope to do it soon & upon the best Terms I possibly can.

The Indians have expressed great Pleasure & Gratitude upon this Affair & the sooner it is put in hand the better, and I am persuaded it is a Measure which will greatly contribute to animate their Zeal,

secure these Indians to our Interest & have a very good Effect on the other Nations.

In a Week or 10 days I am in hopes the Six Nations will be down with me as also Deputies from those living upon the Susquahanna with a Belt of Wampum.

When I have finished my Conferrence I will acquaint your Honour with the result, but till then I cannot with any certainty judge what turn they will take, I hope and flatter myself it will be in our favour, and that a Party may actually engage themselves to assist us.

Cap^{t} Mathews came hither from Albany this Morning. his Company was regularly mustered last Wensday & his Men quartered in the Block-houses. he tells me he applied to M^{r} DePeyster for Provisions for them, but he told him, tho a great deal had been sent him from New York, he had no Orders for Issuing any. Cap^{t} Mathews is now obliged to support them at his own Expence, w^{ch} is very difficult for him to procure as well as to pay for. There are no Blanketts, Cloathing &^{c} for them nor any Commissaries to give them Satisfaction on these Points. How very fatal this may be to the Service, by disgusting the Men already there & spreading amongst those who are to come, and how necessary it is to fulfil these public Engagements with Promptitude & Exactness, past Experience will testifie & the nature of the Case so fully evinces, that I will not trouble Your Honour with any of my Reflections thereon. One thing I must beg leave to say with regard to our Military Preparations in general, that if we are dilatory & remiss, the Consequences will probably be irretrievably fatal.

I am
most respectfully
Sir
Your Honours
Most Obed^{t} &
Most hum Serv^{t}

Mount Johnson
6 June 1755.

To Governor DeLancey.

Wm Johnson

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Sir—Just now I received by an Express from Albany, Your Honours Favour of the 7. Inst. As that part of it relating to the Cagnawaga Indians, seems to require my immediate Answer, I must defer the other particulars to the next opportunity.

I have talked with some of the Mohawk Sachems about the Cagnawaga Indians, and they are of Opinion that those Indians have at present a more favourable Disposition towards the English Interest, than for many Years past. And tho I think their uncontrolled Intercourse with Albany, & the Indiscretions to which some People there (to give it the softest name) may be liable, is a point of no small Consequence at this critical Juncture; Yet as I expect this day or to morrow Morning the arrival of our Indians here, 9 Nations of whom the Interpreter tells me are on the Road, more in Number than he ever yet saw together, that they seem to be well pleased & in a friendly Disposition, and as the Matter I shall move to them, must be conducted with the greatest Caution & Delicacy, it will be of the highest Importance to my Success with them, that they should be kept in as good humour as possible & receive no Disgusts which can be avoided. I am affraid if the laudable Zeal of Govr Shirleys Measures should now take place with respect to the Cagnawagna Indians, it may breed a Dissatisfaction amongst ours & and prejudice my Influence over them, for tis certain they do look on the Cagnawaga Indians as a part of themselves. If I should be so happy as to succeed in my Intentions with our Indians, I then propose to bring the Cagnawagas on the Carpet & put our Conduct relating to them on some detirminate footing, in which I hope to have the Concurrance of our Indians.

A few days may enable me to give Your Honour such Lights & Informations, as may point out what Conduct ought to be observed towards the Cagnawaga Indians at this Crisis.

Capt Ayres went to Albany
the day before yesterday.
Mr Wraxall presents his Duty
to Your Honour.
Mount Johnson
15 June 1755.—

I am
most respectfully
Sir Your Honours
Most Obedt & Most hum
Servt
Wm Johnson

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Mount Johnson June 16th 1755.

Sir

Since my last to you of the thirteenth Inst: the Parties are returned, whom I sent out in Pursuit of the Onogungeys, they discovered the Places of their Encampment, but could not come up with them; I still keep Parties reconnoitering.

I have last Night with much Difficulty agreed with three Men, to build the two Forts at the Mohawk Castles; As wood fitt for that Purpose is very scarse thereabouts, I could hardly get them to undertake the Work for y^{t}. Sum. The Interpreter tells, and Stoddert: who comes down with the Six Nations: writes me there are by far a greater Number of Indians coming down on my Summons, then ever was known to come before on any Occasion: besides a great Body of Indians I expect from the Southward, which must make it very expensive maintaining them &c^{a}.

I am
Sir
with the Utmost Respect
Your Honours
Most Obedient &
Most Humble Serv^{t}.

Gov^{r}. Delancey. Wm. Johnson

MR. BANYAR TO SIR Wm. JOHNSON.

New York 16 June 1755.

Sir

I wrote you yesterday by Brasier the Express Sent by M^{r} Alexander, and at the Bottom of my Letter I added by the Governors Directions, that if you thought the carriage for transporting the Cannon which was made at Albany for the last expedition was proper, and could be made as well and as soon at Albany as at this place, that you should then employ workman to make them there, and that the Governor would See them paid for. This was on a presumption that the Albany Carriage was merely for transporting

the Cannon, but I now find by Col Roberts's information that the carriages made there exactly answres the Description of those I mentioned in a former Letter to you & they were to have had as many of them as they had Guns to carry. This being the case, and as they can be made sooner and its imagined better here, than at Albany the Governor orders me to acquaint you that he will have the ten carriages for the heavy cannon made here as soon as possible, and desires you will not proceed to get them made in consequence of my Letter of yesterday. As to the carriages for the four brass field pieces he desires you would order them to be made out of hand. Captain Eyre being on the spot will give the proper directions to the workmen whom the Governor undertakes to pay as well as for timber and Smiths work. If you have not Spunges Sadles &c there for them mention what is wanted and I will endeavour they be sent with the other things. Are there any and what Ball belonging to them? if not enough send down one of the Shot that is a patern.

The ten large Battoes for the cannon must be made at Albany: But as the Governour expects the Assembly will come to a final Resolution this Day about our Quota of the Train he says he will Stay to hear what they do before he orders them to be made Those Carriages wee Saw at Alexandria had apartments in them for Shot powder &c which I think very necessary as the Guns may probably be used on the March.

I am &c

Gw Banyar

P. S. Mr Dies says the Carriages made at Albany wer done by Garret Lansingh and desires me to caution you agst. making them too heavy.

18 June Sent copyed the above to Col Johnson & reported that he would order the Carriages to be made for the 4 brass field Pieces and also proper Carriages for Such other Small cannon as he may take with him for wch the Gov will order Mr. diers to pay out of the £20,000 Fund.

To Major General William Johnson
at Mount Johnson

GEN^{L}. JOHNSON TO GOV. DE LANCEY.

Sir

My last Letter to Your Honour bore date the 16th Inst. Brazier brought me Your oblidging remembrance of the 15 Inst. he also brought me a Letter from Gov^{r}. Shirley with the Opinions of their two Houses of Assembly relating to the Allowance for my self and the Indian Officers, also a Specification of the Sundrys Provided and Providing by that Government for the Expedition to Crown Point. My Answer to him on these. Papers I send you herewith a Coppy of and also a List of the Sundrys necessary for the Artillery which are not Sufficiently provided and do not Stand in the Boston Specification, to all which I beg leave to refer Your Honour.

The remainder of the Indians came this Afternoon and to morrow Morning I expect the hither Mohawk Castle when there will be 9 Nations and if the Missusagaes come who they tell me are on the way there will be 10 the Interpreters say they never saw so great a Number before. from what I can hitherto Judge they are in good humour, but whither they will come into our Measures time must inform us. I hope the day after tomorrow to be able to make my Introductory Speech.

It is necessary I dispatch Brazier with all possible Speed that my Letter may reach M^{r}. Shirley in time, who waits my Answer, he says he proposes not to stay above 24 hours in New York, I hope what may depend on him to settle there will be done before he leaves it. I have not scarce time to eat or Sleep such a variety of Business and all of it importunate for my Attention. I am with my best Wishes Sir,

Your Honours
Most Obed^{t} & Oblidged Serv^{t}
Wm. Johnson

Mount Johnson
19th June 1755

To Gov^{r}. De Lancey

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER FROM GEN. JOHNSON TO GOUVERNOUR SHIRLEY,

DATED THE 19TH JUNE 1755.

With your Excellencys favour of the 9th. Inst. I received a Specification of the Sundrys which your Province have provided and are provideing. Herewith I send you a list of those things which are yet wanting or of which there is not a sufficient quantity in the said specification relating to the Artillery, and which I must earnestly recommend to your Excellency may be furnished without loss of time. The Report of the Committee of both Houses, in which they have concurred, & your Excellency consented, I have read and considered & beg leave to observe thereupon.

That the £600 therein mentioned for the Indian Service, is not specified to be Sterling or what Currency. I make no doubt it is the former & that the word Sterling is an Omission in this you will make me positive.

To establish the Indians into Companys of 100 men each with Captains, Lieutenants & Ensigns, is impossible, that sort of regularity cannot be obtained amongst those People their officers must be Interpreters and take care of them in all respects, besides doing their Duty as officers. Ensigns will be needless. You may depend I will employ no more officers than what are absolutely necessary for the service. Herein I expect the Governments will confide in me and they shall have no just cause for reproach.

The Pay set down for me, their Proportion of which your Province is to be answerable for, I submit to, but surely your Government doth not intend or suppose these Wages (as they term it) is to supply me with Equipage, with necessarys, charge of servants and the various other Expences which the Command will subject me to. I am far from intending or desireing a support for a vain or useless Ostentation, but they will I presume think it necessary that I sustain the honour conferred upon me with a Decent Dignity; the Troops will naturally expect to see it, the officers to feel it, neither my Policy nor my spirit will allow me to disgrace the Character I am placed in. The Province of New Jersey have agreed to give Colo. Peter Schuyler who commands

but 500 men £300. Currency for his Table &ca. Is not a Secretary, are not Aid de Camps necessary about me, is there to be no Establishment for them ? they must be always of my Table.

I supposed, these matters would naturally occur to the Gentlemen of your Legislature, and I thought it would with more propriety come from them then be proposed by me. Perhaps thro hurry it may have been omitted in the Report you send me—for the Wages allowed me are I suppose considered only as a compensation for my Time & Fatigue : tho I make no objection on that head, yet I must on this occasion say, that no pay which even a lavish Generosity might have given me would be adequate to the loss & prejudice I shall sustain in my own private affairs, and if publick spirit had not prevailed with me above all other motives, I should have declined the honour which was offered me. I have already declared to you Sir & permit me to repeat it, that I disavow the least Intentions or desire of increasing my private fortune by this Command. I laid it to account in the best light, that I should be a considerable looser. I am contented to be so as far as I can prudently bear. I am fully sensible and Gratefull for the honour done me, I am ambitious, and if the Plan agreed upon at Alexandria is put into Effect, I hope with the Divine assistance to do honour to my Country, and Contribute to her future Tranquility.

Your Excellency must pardon me for giving you so much interruption on this subject, but I thought myself oblidged to be thus explicit.

If the Indians should agree to assist us in our enterprizes, they will throw themselves imediately upon me for their maintainance, which will be daily a verry great Expence. If the measures agreed upon against the French, of which in my principal Speech I shall give them some general Notices, should be laid aside, depend upon it, we shall loose them for ever, nay I fear if we are not successful their opinion of us will be verry fatal for our Interest. If on the Contrary we should chastize the Insolence of the French, drive them from their Encroachments and maintain our Conquests, I dare prophecy w^th^ common prudence on our side, the French will not rule a Nation of Indians on the Continent, and the

Inhabitants of these Colonies will reap a thousand fold for their present Expences, and enjoy their possessions in uninterupted security.

GENL. JOHNSON TO GOV. DELANCEY.

Sir

This morning I was favoured with your Honours Letter bearing date the 19 Inst.

At this time it would be to the last Degree Imprudent to communicate Gov^{r}. Glens Letter to the Six Nations. I dread the matters contained therein coming to their knowledge, as it would totally overset all our present measures with them & give the French a handle to set them against the English. Two Mohocks & Four Oneidas went with the half King when he left these parts & I much fear those are the people destroyed. I hope no certain account of it will come to them yet a while & then we may be able to take the proper steps with them in regard to this unlucky accident.

I have now 1100 and odd Indians with me, men, Women and Children, and the Interpreters tell me there are more men than ever they knew at any meeting before.

I have made them an Introductory Speech, to which I have received a very respectful answer. The 24 Inst I made them another Speech, a very long one, in which I gave them a general view of the present state of affairs & prepared them by various arguments to comply with the Contents of General Braddock which I delivered to them the next day. In both speeches I gave the War Belt w^{ch} they took, ever since they have been in seperate & joint Council & have not yet given me their answer. If it should not be equal to all we wish, it will I hope be more than we had reason to expect.

I am in private working with the Sachems & leading men from morning to night. The Fatigue I have undergone has been too much for me. It still continues & I am scarce able to support it. I am distressed where to get victuals for such numbers, they have

destroyed every Green thing upon my Estate & destroyed all my meadows. I must humour them at this critical juncture.

In my present judgment Gov^r Shirley dos not want the reinforcement of 500 men more, when I see & talk with him I shall be able to give my opinion more fully.

The carriages for the Feild peices are in hand at Albany & I shall bespeak the Battoes for the Cannon.

I send your Honour herewith the Information of one John Hart taken before Col. Lydius & Cap^t. Eyre. I beg you will please to communicate it to Gov^r. Shirley when he arrives as also what I have wrote about the Indians. I expect to have their answer some time to morrow. I have already mentioned it, that those Indians who may engage to go with me, will expect to be maintained from that time forward during the service, this among many other solid reasons will I hope cause Dispatch in all who are concerned. My time will not permit me to write Gov^r. Shirley a seperate Letter and at present I have nothing more to communicate to him than what you will please to inform him from this with my respectful salutations

I am Sir your Honours

Mount Johnson
27 June 1755.

Most obed^t. hum serv^t.
W^m. Johnson.

To the Hon^ble
Governor DeLancey.

I have this day wrote General Braddock a Letter & sent him a Copy of Harts Information &c. The Packet I have sent to the Post Master to forward to Philadelphia with all possible Despatch.

ENCLOSURE.

Albany 26 June 1755

Sir

The following is the Account of John Hart conserning the Affairs of Canada

Quest^n What Number of Men there may be in Arms against General Braddock

A. 2000 French besides a Number of Indians which he thinks verry Considerable

Q What force the French may have with any Conveniency at Niagara to oppose the designs we may have against that place .

A Its impossible for them to send more than 1000 Men there but he thinks it scarcely probable to Detach such a Number from Canada in their present Circumstances

Q What Number of Men the French have at present or may have to support & defend Crown Point in case of our Attack

A About 800 besides what Indians they can Muster—that there is about 50 Men in the Fort, that its verry strong & in good Repair, for there was sent about 5 Weeks ago an Engineer & Gunners to put the Place in posture of Defence; as to the Number of Cannon he cannot say, but there is room in the Citadel for 32 only, he is of Opinion if we are able to have Vessels upon Lake Ontario it will wholly prevent a Single Man from going South from Canada to support any of the french Garrison on Ohio. he further says when he was at Montreal that there was sent 700 Men from Quebeck towards Nova Scotia, but cant say how true it may be he is of Opinion the force General Braddock may meet will be an Over Match for him, as the french are determined to hold that place—

MINUTE OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY.

At a Great and General Court or Assembly for his Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, begun and held at Boston upon Wednesday the 28th day of May 1755, being convened by His Majesty's Writts.

The Committee appointed to take under consideration his Excellency's Message to both Houses of the 6th Instant, have so far attended the Service as to consider the Extract from Major General Johnson's Letter, referr'd to in his Excellency's said Message, and report as their humble Opinion.

That a Sum not exceeding Six hundred Pounds be granted and allowed to be paid out of the Treasury of this Province, for the Service of the Expedition against Crown Point, to be applied

towards engaging the Indians of the Six Nations, and supporting them and their Families during the Continuance of the said Expedition; and that the Treasurer be directed to reserve the aforesaid Sum to be always ready to answer any Draughts that may be made on him by Major General Johnson, for the purpose aforesaid, Provided that the said Major General be accountable therefor, and that he draw on the Treasurer for so much only of the whole Charge, as shall be in Proportion to the Number of Troops in the Pay of this Province, compared with the whole Forces of the several Colonies concerned in the Expedition

That for every Company of Indians, consisting of One hundred Men there be allowed Wages to a Captain at the Rate of Nine Pounds Sterling p Month; To a Lieutenant at the Rate of Six Pounds Sterling p Month, and, to an Ensign at the Rate of Four Pounds Sterling p Month; their Pay to commence at the Time when they shall receive their Commissions.

That the Wages of the General or Commander in Chief of the Forces in the aforesaid Expedition be at the Rate of Twenty five Pounds Sterling p Month, to commence at the Date of his Commission.

That this Province do pay towards the Wages of the General and also towards the Wages of the Officers over the Indian Forces in the same Proportion as is before proposed in this Report it should pay towards the Charge of securing & supporting the said Indians.

Which is humbly submitted,

p[r] Order JOHN OTIS.

In Council, June 7, 1755, Read & sent down,

In the House of Repres[ves] June 7. 1755. Read & Ordered that this Report be accepted. Sent up for Concurrence

T. HUBBARD Spk[r]

In Council, June 7. 1755, Read & Concur'd,

THO[s] CLARKE Dp[ty] Secry

Consented to

W. SHIRLEY.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY OF N. YORK.

Assembly Chamber the 5th July 1755.

The House (according to order) proceeded to the consideration of the Letter from Lieut, Govr. Phips of the Massachusets-Bay, and the Vote of the General Court of that Province sent to this House Yesterday by his Honour the Lieutenant Governour touching the raising a number of Men for reinforcing the Army destined to Crown Point, in case a fresh supply should be wanted, and the said Letter and vote being read and Considered.

Resolved, that in case the Army destined for Crown Point shall stand in need of Reinforcements, This House will provide ways and means for Supplying the Quota of this Colony of such Reinforcements.

Ordered that Mr. Verplanck and Colonel Philipse wait on his Honour the Lieutenant Governour with the aforesaid Resolution.

By order of the General Assembly

Abrm. Lott Junr. Clk.

A true copy Examd. By

Gw Banyar D Secry

Assembly Chamber the 5th of July 1755.

Ordered That Capt. Walton & Capt. Winne wait on his Honour the Lieutenant Governor and desire that he will be pleased to acquaint Major General Johnson that on this Colony's having furnished and Supplyed the Sum of nine hundred and forty four pounds—towards the Train of Artillery for the Expedition to Crown Point, over and above the sum of Two thousand pounds the proper Quota of this Colony and the sum of One thousand pounds advanced on the security of Part of the provisions allowed by the Colony of Pensilvania, His Excellency Govr. Shirley has engaged to furnish and Supply the sum of £1652.—New York Currency or thereabouts for the said Train over and above the sum of £3500. Lawfull money already provided by the Colony of the Massachusets Bay for that Service which Sums Compleat the

whole Estimate of the Train of Artillery, and that Major General Johnson is to Apply to his Excellency Govr. Shirley for the aforesaid Sum of one thousand six hundred and fifty two pounds

By order of the General Assembly

Abrm. Lott junr. Clk

LT. GOV. DELANCEY TO THE TREASURER OF N. YORK.

New York 5th July 1755

Sir

I have this day given my Assent to An Act for Providing for several services necessary towards carrying on the Enterprize of erecting one or more Forts at or nigh Crown Point And other Purposes therein mentioned "By which you will perceive there are Several sums directed to be paid to Major General William Johnson amounting in the whole to £4451. The sum of £50 allowed him for his Table the sum of £457 for the use and Service of the Indiams and £1500 part of the Sum of 3944£ towards Supplying the Train. I think it Absolutely necessary to be Transmitted to him immediately His Majesty's Service not permitting the Payment of it to pass in the usual Forms And therefore I desire you to pay those three sums amounting together to two thousand and seven Pounds to Captt. Peter Winne who hath promised me to deliver the same to Major General Johnson And you will take Mr. Winne's Receit for that purpose

I am

Sir

your very humble servt.

James DeLancey

Abraham De Peyster Esqr.
Treasurer of the Colony of
New York.

GOV. SHIRLEY TO GENL. JOHNSON.

Albany 16th July 1755.

Sir,

Yesterday I rec'ed the Engineer's Report of the State of the Powder in your Stores, with his Opinion that it is not safe to proceed in the Expedition under your Command without an Addition of 64 Barrells, as also your Representation to me thereupon: As I have greatly at Heart the Success of his Majesty's Arms, and particularly of the Command, w^ch^. I have intrusted you with, I have examin'd into the Stores of the Niagara Expedition; & as I find I may spare you 52 Barrells of Powder out of 'em, w^ch^ is the utmost I think I can safely do; that the Expedition to Crown point may by no means be retarded, I have now given Directions to L^t^. Winder who hath at present the Care of my Stores, to deliver immediately that Number of Barrells to your Order, taking a Receipt for the same.

I am, Sir,
Your most Humble Servant.
W. Shirley.

Major General Johnson

COLL. JOHNSON TO THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Albany 21 July 1755.

My Lords,

I went to Alexandria in Virginia to wait on his Excell^cy^. General Braddock. I received from and signed by him, a warrant for the sole superintendency and management of the affairs of the Six Confederate Nations of Indians their allies and dependants, also some Instructions relating to my conduct; I further received from him two thousand pounds sterling, part to be laid out in presents and the remainder for various other expences, which would arise from the part I was to act; besides this the General has given me an unlimited Credit upon Gov^r^. Shirley for what further sums this service might call for.

Immediately upon my return home I sent Messages with Belts of Wampum thro' the several Nations, to acquaint them with my appointment, and to desire they would come down to my house with all possible dispatch ; they came and herewith I transmit to your Lordpps. an authenticated copy of my proceedings at this meeting. Tho' I have not General Braddocks Instructions for doing this, yet I have wrote him I should take this honour upon me, and as he is at a great distance from any of our Sea Ports Towns, I doubt not but both your Lordpps and the General will approve of this method.

In the monies I have laid out, in those I shall be obliged to lay out, I have and shall be governed, by the most prudent frugality, which circumstances will admitt of; my accounts shall be kept with all possible regularity, and an undeviating integrity shall govern my whole conduct.

I think it my duty to acquaint your Lordships with the following particulars relative to the department I am now placed in.

From the weakness of the public influence of this Colony over the confederate nations ; from the superior activity, attention and artful conduct of the French, the British Interest hath been long declining amongst these Indians.

From informations confirmed by my own observations and experience, I am convinced that several of the most leading Men in the upper Nations of this confederacy, had entered into engagements with the French, and would speedily have effected a general defection from us to them and joined the French against us, and I fear their example would have produced a total destruction of our interest amongst the confederate Nations.

I think I can now take upon me to assure your Lordpps there are very few, I hope none amongst the whole confederacy, who in the present disputes between the French and our Crown, do not sincerely wish us success and are disposed to assist our arms. I hope in a few weeks they will demonstrate this their present temper of mind by their actions. If we continue to exert ourselves with the spirit which seem at present to animate us, should be successful, and right measures are pursued with regard to Indian affairs, I doubt not but the ambitious and deep laid

schemes of the French, will not only with respect to these Indians, but all those various Nations who surround the Dominion of great Brittain in America be frustrated but receive a mortal wound. True it is, that to obtain this desirable end, a great expence for perhaps some years will necessarily arise, but the alternatives in my humble opinion most glaringly deserve it, and the beneficial consequences will abundantly repay it.

Three things appear to me necessary to be put into execution with all convenient speed, and which I humbly recommend to your Lordpps attention.

First: that the complaints of the Indians respecting their lands, be taken into a speedy and impartial consideration, and a final determination made therein. They have often and warmly applyed to Governors here, but met with no redress some very powerful and wealthy people in this Province are I believe concerned in these complaints. The two patents which the Indians lay most to heart, are Cayaderossoras and the Cannojoherry Patent, and till justice is done them therein, I am convinced they will think themselves oppressed and I fear with some reason. I apprehend the common powers of a Govr. merely as such, are not equal to this affair. I hope your Lordpps wisdom will fall upon some happy method to terminate by sufficient authority these perplexing matters, which when the time grow more calm, will, if not remedied, be of fatal consequence. I gave the Indians my promise (speaking in their language) that I would write to the King their Father on these complaints and that I did not doubt but he would do them justice, and this they expect.

The second particular which I would humbly recommend to your Lordpps attention is: To build wooden Forts at the Chief residing place of each Nation who can be prevailed on to admit it; to keep each of them garrisoned with at least a Lieuts. Party; that the office be judiciously chosen, laid under certain restrictions, and that to both officers & Men by encreasing their Pay or by some other methods it be made an eligible duty.

Thirdly: That a provision be made for Gunsmiths or armourers, to reside at each of the said Forts, that a warehouse of such commodities, Rum excepted, as the Indians are in the most constant

want of, be kept in or near said Forts, to be sold under proper regulations by persons understanding their language who may also act as residents and Interpreters, accountable to the supperintendant of Indian affairs, and to be by him authorized, and that no other person or persons do presume to interfere in the said business.

My unwillingness to press upon Your Lordpp^{s} patience, and the call of the public upon me at this interesting juncture, will not permit me to enlarge further upon these hints, to which I beg leave to add, the securing the Navigation of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, both which I am glad to find are now on foot.

Since my public transactions I have had a private conference with some Indians who tell me, their chief reasons against going to General Braddock's assistance, are, that as they doubt not Gov^{r} Dinwiddie's Influence over those Southern Nations of Indians who live on the back of Virginia, will procure their assistance to M^{r} Braddock, and that if those and they were to meet together, as a good understanding does not at present subsist between them, some Broils might arise, fatal to themselves, and very disserviceable to our Cause. I have advised General Braddock hereof.

Gov^{r} Shirley will, I make no doubt find as many Indians at and about Oswego as he will want. In my humble opinion, his safety does not require any in his way up thither as it lays thro' their several Countrys. The Indians were of the same opinion as are most persons whom I have heard speak on the subject.

I expect upwards of 360 will join me in my March towards Crown Point. The Colonies have made a provision only for 300 and that not sufficient in many articles.

I have endeavoured to do my duty in the station I am placed with regard to Indian Affairs, to the utmost of my abilities. I have neither spared myself Day or night, and have indeed greatly injured my health by it; I shall however rejoice if my conduct meets with your Lordpp^{s} approbation, and that I may thereby be honoured with his Maj^{tys} gracious acceptance of my duty and faithfulness.

My Lords, Justice and Truth, call on me to acknowledge, the faithfullness, diligence and capacity of the Secretary for Indian Affairs in the execution of his office, he has at present but about £60 sterl^{g} per annum without any perquisites—

I am—My Lords. ettc. Wm Johnson

LT. GOV. DELANCEY TO GOV. PHIPPS.

New York 6 Augst 1755—

S^R^

The Assembly met here this Morning and Just as I was going to Town I received your Letter of the 30^th^ July which I communicated to the Council they and I am of a different opinion from Gov^r^ Shirley as to the employm^t^ of the Additional Troops to be raised We are here of Opinion they should without a moments delay be sent to reinforce the provincials under Major Gen^l^ Johnson as we think they Cannot be soon enough at the River Oudiere to Cause the diversion proposed And therefore can be more usefully employed in removing the French encroachm^ts^ at the Lake Champlain There is the Greater reason to send our Reinforcem^ts^ that way as it is probable some of the French Troops from France may have escaped up the River S^t^ Lawrence who will undoubtedly be sent to oppose our Troops at Crown point This Consideration renders it necessary for us to make the Strongest Effort this way here our Success will open us a door to enter their Country in case of a War which from the Events in N^o^ America appears to me inevitable The Assembly this Afternoon voted 400 Additionals to the 800 we had before And as I shall be empowered to press or draught Men for want of Voluntiers I have reason to hope these 400 Men will soon be sent away & Join the other provincials in season. I hope your Governm^t^ will be of the same opinion with this & dispatch whatever Men you intend for the Assistance of their Countrymen without delay. I have laid a very Strict embargo upon all provisions here except to Halifax Annapolis & Chiconicto in Nova Scotia so that besides the Act of Assembly to restrain all Trade with the French both in North America and in the Islands no Vessels can go hence to any part even of his Matis Dominions. And I hope we shall starve the French in Luisburgh & by Gods blessing give them a Chastisement in other places May we have Ample Amends for the disgrace We have Sustained on the Ohio. Be pleased to inform Governor Wentworth that the Assembly here have voted 400 Men. I am S^r^ &c^t^

Spencer Phips Esq^r^.

SECY BANYAR TO GEN. JOHNSON.

New York 6 Augt. 1755.

Sir

The Governor being extremely busy in dispatching Expresses different ways has directed me to inclose you a copy of the Assembly's Resolution to raise 400 Men to reinforce the Troops under your Command, and to acquaint you that all possible Dispatch will be used in raising the Men, who will be either impressed or Draughted if a sufficient Number of Voluntiers do not offer, so that he hopes they will be at Albany in about three Weeks or less. It is expected that Connecticut will immediately raise 500 Men for the like purpose and the Governor is now writing to Governor Phips, desiring that the 500 Men which Governor Shirley recommends to be raised by this Goverment to attack the French Settlements on the River Chaudiere may be ordered forthwith to join you being clearly of opinion from the distance of the place that the diversion intended by that Measure will not have the Effect proposed, I am

Sir

your most obed^{t}.

humble servan

Gen^{l}. Johnson. Gw Banyar

Assembly Chamber City of New York August 6th: 1755.

The House according to order Resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on his Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Message of this Morning and the several other Papers Referred to the said Committee after some time spent therein M^{r}. Speaker Resumed the Chair and M^{r}. Watts Reported the Resolution of the Committee which he read in his place and afterwards delivered in at the Table where the same was again read and is as followeth Viz^{t}

Resolved that it is the opinion of this Committee that there be forthwith raised and Subsisted by this Colony four hundred effective Men Officers included to Reinforce and Strengthen the Army

destined to Crown Point And the said Resolution being read a second time

Resolved that the House do agree with the Committee in the aforesaid Resolution.

Ordered that Mr. Watts and Mr. Walton wait on his Honour the Lieutenant Governor with the aforesaid Resolution.

By order of the General Assembly

Abrm. Lott junr. Clk

Copy Examd.

Gw Banyar D Sec'ry

RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL COURT OF MASS.

At a Great and General Court, or Assembly, for His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay, in New England, begun and held at Boston upon Wednesday the 28th. day of May 1755 and continued by Prorogation unto Wednesday the 6th. of August following, and then Met.

Province of the Massachusetts Bay

The Committee appointed to take under Consideration, His Honour the Lieut Governour's Speech, to the two Houses, are humbly of opinion, that there be forthwith raised, in the pay of this Government, Three hundred Men, in addition to the Five hundred Men, ordered to be raised last Session, and sent as soon as possible to join & Strengthen the Forces now gone to Crown Point, all which is humbly submitted in the name and by order of the Committee; and the Committee ask leave to sit again and to report further

August 7. 1755 Ezek Cheever P order

In Council August 7. 1755. Read and sent down

In the House of Representatives August the 7th. 1755. Read and Accepted, and Ordered, that there be forthwith raised, three hundred Men, to reinforce the Expedition to Crown Point, and that there be paid to each of the said three hundred Men, twenty four Shillings by way of bounty, upon his Enlistment; & twelve Shillings more, upon his producing sufficient Fire Arms, at the first

Muster; and that the pay, or wages, shall commence at the time of inlisting, and the subsistance at the time of Marching from their place of dwelling, to the place of Rendezvouz: and that no deduction shall be made out of their Pay for any of the Bounty, they so receive. And that there be allowed three Shillings, to the Officer, for each of the said three hundred Men inlisted by him: And it is further Ordered that the like Bounty, and Encouragement, be allowed to each of the Five hundred Men, to whom this Court in their late Session, allowed Six Shillings to hold himself in readiness, for the Service, including the said Six Shillings: And His Honour the Lieutenant Governour is desired to give Orders for said Men, to March in Companies as fast as they are compleated, to join the other Forces already gone on the Expedition to Crown Point; And to acquaint the other Governments concerned in this Expedition, of these Resolutions, and urge them to raise a proportionable Number of Men for the said Service.

Sent up for Concurrence
T Hubbard Spk^r.

In Council August 7. 1755
Read and Concur'd
Tho^s. Clarke Dp^ty Secry

Consented to
S. Phips

Copy Examined
Tho^s. Clarke Dp^ty Secry

GENL. JOHNSON TO LT. GOV. DELANCEY.

Camp at the Great Carrying
Place 15 Aug^t. 1755.

Sir

I arrived yesterday at this Camp. This morning I called a Council of War, the minutes of which I inclose your Honour. I could not as yet have Returns from the whole Army as some of the Troops are not yet come up, but by the best judgment we can make, the number of the whole will not exceed 2850 men fit for marching to Crown Point. The army is in general pretty healthy,

but from the season of the year, and upon various other accounts, there is more reason to expect our sick will encrease rather than decrease. From all the Informations I have hitherto been able to obtain, we may expect a strong opposition. For these reasons & sundry others wch time will not permit me to enlarge on, I join in opinion with the Council of War, that speedy Reinforcements will be needful for the Good of the present service, and I hope they will be accordingly sent us from yours & the other Governments concerned in the present Expedition. Our Amunition is rather short and our Arms in general but indifft. It will therefore I think be very necessary that the Reinforcements be sufficiently provided with the one, & proper Care taken with regard to the other.

We shall loose no time but proceed in our opperations with all possible Dispatch.

I am Sir
Your Honours
Most obedt.
hum servt.
Wm. Johnson.

To the Honourable
Lieut. Governor DeLancey.

Col. Cockcroft with his Regt. is not yet come up, but I hope are to day at the great Falls abt. 8 miles from hence. I sent 30 Empty Waggons back from Stillwater to lighten his Battoes for to that place there is scarce water to swim a light loaded Battoe. There have been great Desertions in his Regt. & a great deal of uneasiness, partly owing to the Connecticut Troops & partly to the Commissaries, who were full of frivolous scruples, wh is the mildest I can say of it. The Connecticut officers say that Mr. O. DeLancey engaged to their Govt. that their three Companys should in point of Provisions &c. be put on an equal footing with the other troops of that Govt. Those have fresh Provisions now here in camp, such as Beeves & Sheep & I doubt not when the others come up that unless some measures are taken to supply them with the same, that Discontent will arise wh may greatly distress our Proceedings. I shall acquaint them that I have wrote to your Honour upon this Subject & I hope proper care will be taken therein. When they were ordered to march from the Flatts,

they absolutely refused to strike their Tents until their Billeting money was paid, wh the Pay masters refused to do, tho the Capts offered to indemnify them for the same, this retarded our march Two days.

I am Sir
Your Honours
Most obedient
Humble servt.
Wm. Johnson.

MINUTE OF A COUNCIL OF WAR.

HEAD QUARTERS

Camp at the Great Carrying Place friday
the 15 August 1755

At a Council of War held by the Honourable
Major General Johnson

Present

Major General Johnson
Major General Lyman
Colonel Ruggles
Colonel Titcomb
Colonel Williams
Colonel Goodrich
Lieut. Colonel Gilbert
Lieut. Colonel Bagly
Lieut. Colonel Pomroy
Lieut. Colonel Pitkin
Lieut. Colonel Whiting
Lieut. Colonel Cole
Capt. Peter Wraxall Secretary to General Johnson

General Johnson acquainted the Board that He had received a Letter from the Lieut. Governour of New York wherein He advises Him, that the Assembly of that Province had made a resolve to raise 400 Men in order to Reinforce the Troops already Raised upon the present Expedition against Crown Point ; And Major General Lyman laid before the Board a Letter he had recd.

from Governour Fitch of Connecticut, wherein he desires to know if it is the opinion of the Council of War of this Army that 500 men agreed to be raised by the Legislature of that Colony be Needful to be imediately sent to Reinforce the Troops already assembled at this Place.

Hereupon General Johnson put the Question; whither the above Reinforcements should be sent to join the Army with all possible dispatch and are Needful for the Good of the present Service.

Agreed in the affirmative Nem : Con :

General Johnson then put the following Question — whither He should write to the Commander in Chief of Massachusetts Bay to desire that the 500 Men intended to make a Diversion upon the River Chaudiere supposed to be raised in the said Province be imediately sent to join this Army.

Agreed in the affirmative Nem : Con :

This Council of War are of opinion that Authenticated Copies of the foregoing Votes be imediately dispatched to the Several Governments who have raised Troops on the present Expedition and that the Colony of Rhode Island and the Govt. of New Hampshire be desired to send their Proportionable Reinforcements as soon as possible.

P. Lyman
Timo. Ruggles
Moses Titcomb
Eph. Williams
Elizar Goodrich
Thos. Gilbert
Jonathn. Bagly
Seth Pomroy
John Pitkin
Nathan Whiting
Edward Cole

A true Copy compared & Examined with the original minutes by me

Peter Wraxall
Secr.
to the General.

MAJR GENL. JOHNSON TO LT GOV. DELANCEY.

Camp at the Great Carrying Place
24th of August 1755

Sir

Herewith I inclose your Honour the minutes of a Council of War which I called and at which were present all the Field Officers in Camp. I refer you thereto for particulars.

That we have many natural Obstacles to expect—that the French may of themselves out number us—that they will take post and Fortify themselves in some advantageous Place on this side Crown Point, probably at Tionderoga that they will greatly out Number us in Indians, and that by the Cognawagas engaging in their favour, our Indians will in general be less willing to take part with us as they are very many of them related to the Cognawagas and have Mothers, Sisters, Brothers &c among them, and that Some of our Indians will upon that acct actually decline engaging—I say that I incline to these Opinions and therefore do agree with the Council of War in thinking that all present circumstances collected, very strong and speedy Reinforcements are necessary to obtain the acquisition of Crown Point.

The Road is now making from this place to Lake St Sacrement where I propose to build Magazines and raise a defensible Fortification either as a safe retreat in case we should find the Enemy to strong for our Force and be obliged to quit our Ground, or upon well grounded intelligence find it the most prudent measure to halt there till we receive Reinforcements.

As I think the Troops under my Command both Officers and Men Seem to be animated with becoming resolution and Courage, I hope they will approve themselves in all respects worthy of the confidence which their country hath reposed in them and I shall endeavour to the utmost of my abilities to fulfil the Duties of that station in which I am placed. If we should not be so happy as to gratify the expectations of all, I hope we shall not deserve the reproach of any. Under the conduct of the greatest human abilities success is very precarious and determined by that Power which no

mortal hand can resist. We are engaged in a Righteous and a Glorious cause and as far as Courage ought to carry Men I hope it will carry us.

I hope the Governments in General and yours in particular will consider the naked state of their people who in the approaching season will stand in need of some warm Cloaths and Bedding, surely they deserve this consideration and relief, and I think it would be an affront to the Humanity and generousity of your Colony if they needed any arguments to stimulate them on this occasion.

I propose to march to morrow or next day with the first Division of about Fifteen Hundred Men and some Indians, and a few Field Pieces for Lake S^{t} Sacrament and to order the remainder of the Troops to follow as soon as Possible with the heavy Artillery and Baggage. I am

Sir

Your Honours

Most Obedient Humble Servant

To the Honourable Wm Johnson

James DeLancey esq^{r} &c

Sir.—I received your honours favour of the 13th Inst. You will see by the minutes of Council of War, what they think necessary with regard to the New Hampshire Troops and as they are a fine Body of Men & we stand so much in need of them, I concur in opinion with the Council of War & have sent an Express to Col: Blanchard to join us with all possible Dispatch & I doubt not but the Colony of New Hampshire will readily put the affair of Provisions on an equitable Footing with the other Gov^{ts} I have now about 60 Indians with me & expect to day or to morrow 200 more & hope in the whole we shall have near 400—I am throwing up works here but am afraid the essential part of the service will not leave time to perfect them before we move. I have ordered 300 men constantly to work at them under the directon of Cap^{t} Eyre they are to continue at it till General Lyman marches with the rest of the Troops & the heavy Artillery.

As to Gov^{r} Shirleys Conduct and mine with regard to Indian Affairs, I have not time to write out & put Several Papers in

order w^ch^ indeed with Sundry others I thought more prudent to to leave at Albany, but upon the present Face of things I hope my conduct will be justified by my superiors & if I should throw the new Lights I have in possession upon this unfortunate affair I think General Shirley will appear very culpable. I am

Y^r^ Honours most
Humble Serv^t^
Wm Johnson

GENERAL JOHNSON TO THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Lake George 3d Sept. 1755.

My Lords

As I left all those papers w^ch^ were not necessary to the Military undertaking I am now engaged in behind me I cannot be exact as to the date when I had the honour to write your Lordships with a Copy of my Proceedings at the late meeting with our Indians. I think it was about the middle of July.

I have now with me about 250 Indians & as small parties are every day dropping in I expect before I can be able to leave this to have full 300. I sent a Message in conjunction with the Six Nations to the Cagnawaga Indians who live in Canada in order to persuade them to stand Neuter in our present Disputes. I have had their answer, that it was not in their Power, that by Religion and Treaties they were so united to the French that they must obey their orders. The Sachems of the several Nations now with me have this day sent another Deputation to the s^d^. Cagnawagas to try if by fresh arguments they can bring them over to a Neutrality, and this is to be the last Effort. Our Indians appear to be very sincere & zealous in our cause & their young men can hardly be withheld from goeing out a scalping w^ch^. is not thought either prudent or politic till the Cagnawagas give their final answer.

Governor Shirley soon after his arrival at Albany in his Way to Oswego, grew dissatisfied with my proceedings—Employed one Lydius of that place, a man whom he knew and I told him was extreamly obnoxious to me, & the very man whom the Indians had [at] their public meeting, so warmly complained of, to oppose my

Interest and manag[illegible] with them. Under this man several others were employed—these persons went to the Indian Castles, & by bribes, keeping them constantly feasting and drunk, calumniating my character, depreciating my commission, authority & management, in short by the most Licentious & abandoned proceedings, raised such a confusion amongst the Indians particularly the Two Mohock Castles, that their Sachems were under the utmost consternation, sent Deputies down to me to know what was the occasion of all these surprising Proceedings, that I had told them I was appointed Sole Superintendent of their affairs wch had given an universal satisfaction thro' all their Nations, but that now every Fellow pretended to be vested with Commissions & authority &c. I sent several Messages and the Interpreters up to quiet their minds, for my military department would not suffer me to leave Albany, as I was marching with the troops under my command, or I would have gone up & should have soon overset all these violent measures. I have at Albany a great number of Letters and Papers wch. give particular relations of the Behavior & villainous Conduct of these Agents of Govr. Shirley, but if I had them here I would not trouble your Lordships with a Detail wch tho' very shocking would be extreamly tedious.

I shall only say in general, that a complication of more Scurrilous Falsehoods, more Base & Insolent Behaviour, more corrupt, more Destructive measures to overset that Plan of general Harmony wch I had with infinite Pains & at a great expense to the public so lately established, could not have taken place than did in ye. conduct of these Agents of Govr. Shirley's. I spoke of it to Govr. Shirley, I wrote to him of it, but without Remedy. They pleaded his authority for all they did, and said they had his Commissions, & I can't but presume it must have been done with his knowledge and consent, in which I am confirmed by his letters to me.

The reason or the pretended reason wch. Govr. Shirley gives for his opposing my Indian management and employing these Persons, is, that I would not get some Indians to escourt him from Schenectady to Oswego. I had indeed mentioned it to some of their Sachems, who told me that, as his way to Oswego lay through their severall

countries & Oswego itself is in the Senecas Country, they could not conceive there was any occasion for their escourting him, & that when he came to Oswego there was no fear but many of the Six Nations would according to my desire meet him there and assist him. Numbers of the Troops had gone up without any molestation not the least Interruption had been given to any one, the Traders to Oswego were daily going & returning with single Battoes. those who are acquainted with Indian Affairs well know, that it would have been the worst of policy for the French at that time to violate the tranquility of the country of the Six Nations. Tis true some small parties of enemy Indians had been discovered between Schenectady & my house, but they are looked upon as a set of free Booters & Gov^r. Shirley's Body Guard would have been a full security to him against any such—even his primier Lydius when I talked to him on this head told me he saw no want of Indians to escourt him & that he would endeavour to dissuade him from it.

It is with Reluctance I trouble your Lordships with these matters, but as I have been honoured with a station of great Importance & entrusted with monies belonging to the Crown, it behoves me on every acc^t. not to be wholly silent, and I have said as little as I possibly could to give your Lordships some Idea of affairs for w^ch. I apprehend myself accountable to your Board.

Gov^r. Shirleys conduct not only shook the system of Indian affairs, gave me fresh vexation and perplexity but occasioned considerable and additional Expenses w^ch. would otherwise have been saved ; the profuse offers w^ch. his agents made to the Indians in order to debauch them from joining me, tho' it did not succeed but with very few, yet gave to all such self-importance, that when I urged to any of them who made demands upon me the unreasonableness of them &c. they reproached me that they had refused Gov^r. Shirley's great offers from whom they would have had every thing they wanted. Under these circumstances & the acc^t. coming at that time of our unhappy defeat on the Ohio, I was forced to make compliances w^ch otherwise they would neither have expected nor I have submitted to.

My Lords, I will hasten to a conclusion. From Gov^r. Shirley's

late Behaviour & his Letters to me I am under no doubt that he is become my inveterate enemy and that the whole weight of his Power & abilities will be exerted to blast if he can my Character —here and here only am I anxious—Gross Falsehoods (such he has already asserted in his letters to me,) artful misrepresentations, Deliberate malice, Resentment worked up by People in his confidence, whose Interest, nay whose very livelihood depends upon their inflaming him—these my Lords are circumstances wch. I own disturb me—I am sensible Govr. Shirley has in many respects been an active and a useful servt. to the Crown—his rank in public Life will natturally give him consequence and gain him Influence. Were I to lay open in a particular manner the whole scene of my Conduct with regard to the public & him, and from the Papers & Letters in my possession to contrast his conduct with regard to the Disputes between us. I say were I to do this & any one should think it worth their while calmly to peruse & impartially to examine the full state of the Affair between us, I would rest Character, Fortune, & Life upon the Decision—but I apprehend, unless I am properly called upon to do this, such a voluminous appeal would not find either leisure or Patience from those Persons to read it & consider it whose opinions would be of the greatest Consequence, they would rather I believe think me Impertinent & too full of my own Importance. Therefore my present address on this Subject to your Lordships is to entreat you will at least receive those accusations against me wch. I suspect already are or will be transmitted by Govr. Shirley, with a suspension of your Judgment. If your Lordships are disposed to have the whole amply laid before you, & I live to receive yr commands, they shall be obeyed with all possible dispatch.

In the mean time I beg leave to declare to your Lordships with the most unfeigned Sincerity as I did to the late General Braddock—that my only motives for accepting the Commission & powers he conferred upon me, were to serve my King & my Country at this important crisis. I stipulated with him for no reward for myself—and whatever Expectations I might indulge they were never equal to the fatigue nor the Disadvantages to my private Fortune wch. I foresaw I should & wch. I have suffered.

My Lords, animated by my Loyalty, by my Zeal for the public safety and welfare (both which were at stake) and by some desire of Fame, I accepted General Braddock's Commission & executed the trust reposed in me Chearfully to the utmost of my abilities & with Integrity. Gov^r. Shirleys interfering in the authoritave & ill-judged manner he has done, was injurious to the true system of Indian Affairs, a violation of the terms of my Commission & an arbitrary Insult upon my Character. And I must beg leave to inform y^r. Lordships that if His Majesty should think proper to honour me with the management of Indian Affairs, I am in Duty bound to declare, that I do not think I can fulfill his royal Expectations & do that Service to my Country w^ch. Majesty may expect from me, if my Proceedings are to be controuled by any Gov^r. who may by being ill advised or from Personal Resentments or from other undue motives, take upon him to counteract my measures.

I must further beg leave to observe that unless the monies appointed to carry on Indian affairs are confided to my disposal & a certain Fund fixt on, I shall be ever liable to have my measures perplexed & opposed & often perhaps prevented from bringing into Effect Schemes w^ch by a precarious Fund I may be forced to drop & so loose that chain w^ch may bind the whole Structure.

By Gov^r Shirley's ill-grounded Resentments, from the imperious Stile he writes to me since Gen^l Braddock's Death, from his threatening Intimations, I am confirmed in this Lesson, that a Subordinate Power here with regard to Indian affairs & a Fund dependent upon the will & pleasure of his Majesty's Gov^rs in these Colonies will be incompatible both with my abilities and Inclinations to Conduct them, & as I have no private or mercenary views to serve by them, I must humbly beg leave to decline the Charge unless I am put upon the footing as above intimated. I shall always be desirous to take advice from any of His Majestys serv^ts in these parts & to be accountable for my conduct to any Judicature His Majesty may think proper to appoint, but to be subjected to the Caprice & political views of Gov^rs. I cannot think will ever harmonize with one uniform Direction of Indian Affairs, & persuaded I am if they are branched out into various channels of power, the British Indian Interest in these parts will be unstable, perplexed,

& in the end totally lost, and upon that footing I would not choose to have the least hand in them.

I am building a Fort at this Lake where no house was ever before built nor a rod of land cleared, w^ch^ the French call Lake S^t^ Sacrament, but I have given it the name of Lake George, not only in honor to His Majesty but to ascertain his undoubted Dominion here. When the Battoes (certain small Boats so called) are brought from the last Fort I caused to be built at the Great Carrying Place ab^t^ 17 miles from hence, I propose to go down this Lake with a part of the Army and take post at the end of it about 50 miles from hence at a pass called Tionderogue ab^t^ 15 miles from Crown Point there wait the coming up of the rest of the Army & then attack Crown Point. The whole amount of our Troops fit for Duty at present are ab^t^ 3100—but the colonies are sending Reinforcements, for it is expected we shall have the main strength of Canada to contend with & great numbers of Indians. Our Battoes must all come hither by land upon carriages w^ch^ makes it very tedious & I believe we have near 600 to come.

I am with the utmost respect,
My Lords, your Lordships
Most Obe^t^.

RUMOR OF A BATTLE BETWEEN THE ENGLISH & FRENCH.

New York } ss. Garret Vanzandt of the City of Albany being examined says he came from Albany thursday last at Sunset, employed by M^r^. Hansen to carry Dispatches from the Camp to the Governor. That he heard Major General Johnson was attacked in his Camp at Lake George by a Body of about 4 or 5000 French, on Monday Morning last about 10 oclock, that the Battle continued about 6 Hours, and then the French retreated precipitately leaving all their Baggage and all their Provisions—That he heard 6 or 700 of the French were killed, and about 100, of the English Among the latter are Col Pitkin, Col. Williams, Cap^t^. Jonathan Stevens, Cap^t^. Farrel, Cap^t^. Stoddert, Cap : W^m^ M^c^Gennis, That General Johnson was wounded through the upper part of the thigh. That Cap^t^. Butler, Cap^t^. Teady Magin and Hendrick the Mohawk

Sachim are missing & supposed to be kill'd That the English Army consisted of 2500. That between Pokeepsingh and the Manor of Livingston about 1000 Men passed him in their Way to Albany. That when he left Albany there were about 1000 Men there. That Col. Renselaer went from Albany with about 200 Men Tuesday Morning and believes reached the General's Camp by Thursday Evening. That on his Way he heard there were about 10,000 New England Men marching to Albany. That 4 or 500 he believes were arrived at or near Albany before he left it. That he understood all these Forces were going to the General unless stopt by orders from him. That he heard at Albany there was only 27 of our Indians killed. That he heard the French Indians run away after being drove up twice to the Cannon by the French. That the French General is dangerously wounded and him and his Aid de Camp Prisoners, their Lieut^{t}. General killed. That our waggoners, who were not armed, as soon as they observed any English or French fall ran and took up their arms and fought. Where the French were most in Number our Indians fell upon & attack'd them. That on Tuesday last an Express was sent from Albany to Esopus to Col^{l} Gaasbeek Chambers to send Men up to Albany, to which he said he would consult the Act of Assembly, and at that time had Lawyers with him. On Wednesday another Express was dispatched from Albany for the same purpose who met an Express coming from Esopus to Albany to enquire whether the News was true, on which the Albany Express said he had a Mind to kill him. Both Expresses then went to Esopus — and the People were called under arms on Wednesday & discharged and ord^{d}. to appear next day. But that he met one Cap^{t}. Elpendorph with 50 Troopers on Thursday Night 20 miles from Albany, who when he first heard the News push'd off with these Men without waiting for Orders.

BATTLE OF LAKE GEORGE.

[Lond. Mag. xxiv.]

GEN^{L}. JOHNSON TO THE GOVERNORS OF THE SEVERAL COLONIES.

Camp at Lake George, Septr. 9. 1755

GENTLEMEN,

Sunday evening the 7th. instant I received intelligence from some Indian scouts I had sent out, that they had discovered three large roads about the South Bay, and were confident a very considerable number of the enemy were marched, or on their march towards our encampment at the Carrying-place, where were posted about 250 of the New Hampshire troops, and five companies of the New York regiment. I got one Adams, a waggoner, who voluntarily and bravely consented to ride express with my orders to colonel Blanchard of the New Hampshire regiment, commanding officer there. I acquainted him with my intelligence, and directed him to withdraw all the troops there within the works thrown up. About half an hour, or near an hour after this, I got two Indians and two soldiers to go on foot with another letter to the same purpose.

About twelve o'clock that night the Indians and soldiers returned with a waggoner who had stole from the camp, with about eight others their waggoners and forces without orders. This waggoner says they heard and saw the enemy about four miles from this side the Carrying-place. They heard a gun fire, and a man call upon heaven for mercy, which he judged to be Adams. The next morning I called a council of war, who gave it as their opinion, and in which the Indians were extremely urgent that 1000 men should be detached, and a number of their people would go with them, in order to catch the enemy in their retreat from the other camp, either as victors, or defeated in their design. The 1000 men were detached under the command of colonel Williams, of one of the Boston regiments, with upwards of 200 Indians. They marched between eight and nine o'clock. In about an hour and half afterwards we heard a heavy firing, and all the marks of a warm engagement, which we judged was about three or four miles from us; we beat to arms, and got our men all in readiness. The

fire approached nearer, upon which I judged our people were retreating, and detatched lieutenant colonel Cole, with about 300 men to cover their retreat. About ten o'clock some of our men in the rear, and some Indians of the said party, came running into camp, and acquainted us, that our men were retreating, that the enemy were too strong for them. The whole party that escaped returned to us in large bodies.

As we had thrown up a breastwork of trees round our encampment, and planted some field-pieces to defend the same, we immediately hauled some heavy cannon up there to strengthen our front, took possession of some eminences on our left flank, and got one field-piece there in a very advantageous situation: The breastwork was manned throughout by our people, and the best disposition made through our whole encampment, which time and circumstances would permit. About half an hour after eleven, the enemy appeared in sight, and marched along the road in very regular order directly upon our center: They made a small halt about 150 yards from our breast-work, when the regular troops (whom we judged to be such by their bright and fixed bayonets) made the grand and center attack. The Canadians and Indians squatted and dispersed on our flanks. The enemy's fire we received first from their regulars in platoons, but it did no great execution, being at too great a distance, and our men defended by the breast-work. Our artillery then began to play on them, and was served, under the direction of Captain Eyre, during the whole engagement, in a manner very advantageous to his character, and those concerned in the management of it. The engagement now became general on both sides. The French regulars kept their ground and order for some time with great resolution and good conduct, but the warm and constant fire from our artillery and troops put them into disorder; their fire became more scattered and unequal, and the enemy's fire on our left grew very faint. They moved then to the right of our encampment, and attacked colonel Ruggles, colonel Williams, and colonel Titcomb's regiment, where they maintained a very warm fire for near an hour, still keeping up their fire in the other parts of our line, tho' not very strong. The three regiments on the right supported the

attack very resolutely, and kept a constant and strong fire upon the enemy. This attack failing, and the artillery still playing along the line, we found their fire very weak, with considerable intervals. This was about four o'clock, when our men and the Indians jumped over the breast-work, pursued the enemy, slaughtered numbers, and took several prisoners, amongst whom was the baron de Dieskau, the French general of all the regular forces lately arrived from Europe, who was brought to my tent about six o'clock, just as a wound I had received was dressed. The whole engagement and pursuit ended about seven o'clock.

I do not know whether I can get the returns of the slain and wounded on our side to transmit herewith; but more of that by and by.

The greatest loss we have sustained was in the party commanded by colonel Williams in the morning, who was attacked, and the men gave way, before colonel Whiting, who brought up the rear, could come to his assistance. The enemy, who were more numerous, endeavoured to surround them; upon which the officers found they had no way to save the troops but by retreating; which they did as fast as they could. In this engagement we suffered our greatest loss; colonel Williams, major Ashley, captain Ingersal, and captain Puter, of the same regiment; captain Farrell, brother-in-law to the general, who commanded a party of Indians, captain Stoddart, captain M'Ginnes, captain Stevens, all Indian officers, and the Indians say near forty of their people, who fought like lions, were all slain. Old Hendrick, the great Mohawk Sachem, we fear is killed. We have abundant reason to think we killed a great number of the enemy; amongst whom is Mons. St. Pierre, who commanded all the Indians. The exact number on either side I cannot obtain; for tho' I sent a party to bury our dead this afternoon, it being a running scattered engagement, we can neither find all our dead, nor give an exact account. As fast as these troops joined us, they formed with the rest in the main battle of the day; so that the killed and wounded, in both engagements, officers excepted, must stand upon one return.

About eight o'clock last night, a party of 120 of the New Hampshire regiment, and 90 of the New York regiment, who

were detached to our assistance, under the command of captain M'Ginnes, from the camp at the Carrying-place, to reinforce us, were attacked by a party of Indians and Canadians, at the place where colonel Williams was attacked in the morning; their engagement began between four and five o'clock. This party who our people say were between 3 and 400, had fled from the engagement here, and gone to scalp our people killed in the morning. Our brave men fought them for near two hours, and made a considerable slaughter amongst them. Of this brave party two were killed and eleven wounded, and five missing. Captain M'Ginnes, who behaved with the utmost calmness and resolution, was brought on a horse here, and, I fear, his wounds will prove mortal. Ensign Falsam, of the New Hampshire regiment, wounded thro' the shoulder.

I have this morning called a council of war, a copy of the minutes of which I send you herewith.

Monsieur le baron de Dieskau, the French general, is badly wounded in the leg, and thro' both his hips, and the surgeon very much fears his life. He is an elderly gentleman, an experienced officer, and a man of high consideration in France. From his papers, I find he brought under his command to Canada, in the men of war lately arrived at Quebec, 3171 regular troops, who were partly in garrison at Crown-Point, and encamped at Ticonderoro, and other advantageous passess, between this and Crown-Point. He tells me he had with him yesterday morning 200 grenadiers, 800 Canadians, and 700 Indians of different nations. His aid de camp says, (they being separately asked) their whole force was about 2000. Several of the prisoners say, about 2300. The baron says, his major-general was killed, and his aid-de-camp says, the greater part of the chief officers also. He thinks by the morning and afternoon actions they have lost near 1000 men, but I can get no regular accounts. Most of our people think from 5 to 600. We have about 30 prisoners, most of them badly wounded. The Indians scalped of their dead already near 70, and were employed after the battle last night, and all this afternoon, in bringing in scalps; and great numbers of French and Indians yet left unscalped. They carried off numbers of their dead, and secreted them. Our men have suffered so much fatigue for three

days past, and are constantly standing upon their arms by day, half the whole upon guard every night, and the rest lay down armed and accoutred, that both officers and men are almost wore out. The enemy may rally, and we judge they have considerable reinforcements near at hand; so that I think it necessary we be upon our guard, and be watchful to maintain the advantages we have gained. For these reasons I do not think it either prudent or safe to be sending out parties in search of the dead.

I do not hear of any officers killed at our camp but colonel Titcomb, and none wounded but myself, and Major Nichols of colonel Titcomb's. I cannot yet get certain returns of our dead and wounded; but from the best accounts I can obtain, we have lost about 130 who are killed, about 60 wounded, and several missing from the morning and afternoon's engagement.

I think we may expect very shortly another and more formidable attack, and that the enemy will then come with artillery. The late colonel Williams had the ground cleared for building a stockaded fort. Our men are so harassed, and obliged to be so constantly upon watchful duty, that I think it would be both unreasonable, and I fear in vain, to set them at work upon the designed fort.

I design to order the New Hampshire regiment up here to reinforce us, and I hope some of the designed reinforcements will be with us in a few days. When these fresh troops arrive, I shall immediately set about building a fort.

My wound is in my thigh, is very painful. The ball is lodged, and cannot be got out; by which means I am, to my mortification, confined to my tent.

10th

This letter was begun, and should have been dispatched yesterday; but we had two alarms, and neither time nor prudence would permit it. I hope, gentlemen, you will place the incorrectness hereof to the account of our situation. I am, gentlemen, most respectfully, Your most obedient servant,

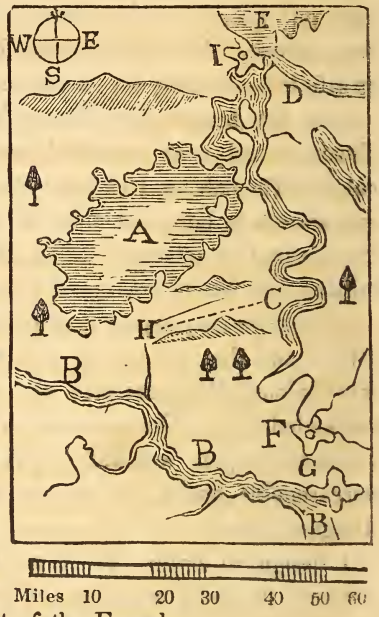
William Johnson.

[Another account of the above engagement will be found in the N. Y. Mercury Sept 22, 1755, transferred to the Lond. Gent. Mag. xxv. 518.]

MAP OF THE COUNTRY AROUND LAKE GEORGE.

[From Gent. Mag. xxv.]

The little annexed map shews the situation of the country where the late engagement happened. The *French* imagined the *English* army would have crossed the carrying place from *Fort Nicholson* at G, to *Fort Anne* at F, and accordingly had staked *Wood Creek* at C, to prevent their navigation; but General *Johnson* being informed of it, continued his route on *Hudson's* river to H. The French marched from C to attack his advanced detachments near the lake. The dotted lines shew their march.



A. Lake George, or Sacrament; B. Hudson's River; C. Wood Creek; D. Otter Creek; E. Lake Champlain; F. Fort Anne; G. Fort Nicholson; H. The place where Gen. Johnson beat the French; H C. The rout of the French.

*** Among the Mss. in the Sec'ys Dep^{t}. are the original Muster Rolls of the following companies which served in the campaign of 1755.

Capt Phil. Jno Schuyler's	Comp	Albany	3	officers	89	rank & file
" Edmond Mathews'	"	Albany	3	officers	97	rank & file
" Isaac Corsa's	"	Westchester			95	"
" Pieter Vanden Burgh's	"	Dutchess	3	"	78	"
" Wm. Mc. Ginnis	"	Schenectady	3	"	89	"
" Saml. Dimock	"	Seabrook Ct.	3	"	97	"
" John Slap's	"	Durham "	3	"	97	"
" Street Hall	"	Walingford	3	"	97	"

MINUTE OF COUNCIL.

At a Council held at Fort George in the City of New York the 14th. September 1755

PRESENT.

His Excellency Sir Charles Hardy Knight &ca.

Mr. Alexander	Mr. Rutherfurd
Mr. Kennedy	Mr. Holland.
Mr. Chief Justice DeLancey	Mr. Chambers.
Mr. Horsmanden	
Mr. Murray	Mr. Smith.

His Excellency communicated a Letter of the 10th Instant from Peter Wraxall Esqr. Aid de Camp to Major General Johnson, advising that on the the 8th Instant General Johnson's Army was attacked in their Camp, that after a conflict of 4 hours the Enemy gave way and fled. That the loss on our side is about 150 killed, and about 100 wounded. That our Indians lost about 40. That the French General is wounded, and about 25 prisoners taken, about 70 of their Scalps taken by our Indians, and.

His Excellency communicated a Letter of the 5th, from Governor Wentworth, advising, that the Government have passed an Act to raise 300 Men — And a Letter of the fifth from Governour Phips, advising that his Government, (Massachusets Bay) have passed An Act, to raise 2000 more besides 800 formerly provided for to reinforce the Army destined against Crown Point.

His Excellency observed that from the Great Reinforcements sending to the Army, he was apprehensive there might be a want of provisions. The Council were of opinion, that two hundred Barrels of Pork, and Six Barrels of Vinegar, be immediately purchased and sent up to Albany, and that as other species of provisions may be had at Albany, His Excellency would be pleased on his Arrival there, to order such quantitys to be purchased, as he should find necessary. Whereupon Mr. Oliver DeLancey being called in, undertook to purchase and send to Albany the Pork and Vinegar, And his Excellency by the advice

of the Board, directed Mr. DeLancey to purchase 300 Fire Arms, over and above the 200, now in his hands belonging to the Province, all which the Council think necessary to be immediately sent to Albany, and doubt not, but the General Assembly will readily make provisions for these, or any other necessary services. The Council were also of opinion, that his Excellency should order nineteen Barrels of Gunpowder out of the Magazine, and twelve in the hands of Mr. DeLancey, which latter belong to the province to be sent to Albany.

The Governor recommended to the Gentlemen of the Council if any infectious Distemper should discover itself among the Inhabitants of this City, during his absence, that they would order the persons to be removed, in order to prevent its spreading, agreable to the meaning of the Laws lately made in that case, and that they would make the necessary orders in all cases for Vessels performing Quarentine and the preventing infection.

The Council advised his Excellency to issue a Proclamation Ordaining and appointing Thursday the second day of October next, to be set a part and observed throughout this province as a day of publick thanksgiving to Almighty God for his singular deliverance from our Enemies. Which his Excellency ordered accordingly.

GENL JOHNSON TO THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Camp at Lake George 24 Sepr 1755

My Lords

I had the honour to write your Lordships the 3d Inst & thought myself under the necessity of laying open (to me) a very desagreable Scene.

Since my last Said letter, the Enemy paid us a visit at this Camp. we were So happy as to give them a pretty Severe repulse & took their General, The Baron De Dieskau who commands all the French Kings Troops in Canada, Prisoner.

As I make no Doubt but the Genl. Letter wch I wrote to the Several Governments who raised Troops on this Expedition or the particulars drawn from it of the actions & events of the S-n

Inst. has before now been transmitted to his Majesty's ministers, I shall not now interupt your Lordships with any Repetition of that narrative.

The next day after this affair, the Indians acquainted me that they proposed to returne home as was their constant Custom after an Engagmt. wherein they had met with any considerable Loss—for what passed on this occasion in a publick way, I refer your Lordships to the inclosed minutes. They told me in private that one prevailing motive for their return home was that as the French Indians & they had now drawn the Sword against each other they expected the Enemy might fall on their Settlements, & therefore it was necessary for their general Safety to go home & put their people on their Guard, call Councills & take every needful precaution. and that when I should acquaint them that we were ready to go forward with the expedition & fix a Day for their Return they would come more in number & with a Determination of Revenge upon their Enemy—they lost about 30 of their people & among wch many eminent Sachems & warriors very faithful to our Interest, they Sustained the chief attack from the Enemy in the morning action, and they complained to me that they were Sacrificed by the Backwardness & flight of our People, & I fear from the most impartial accts they had reason—every one of their officers who were in the Engagmt were Slain

Your Lordships will observe from the inclosed Minutes that they repeat in a verry earnest manner that the Cagnawagas may never again be suffered to trade either at Albany or Oswego.

In my humble Opinion, to grant their request, to prohibit & to prevent by the Strictest Execution of law all trade with the Said Cognawagas or Subjects of the French Kings either at Albany or Oswego or elswhere by any of his Majesty's Subjects in these parts, but more particularly at Albany, will be a measure of the most useful Kind will highly distress the French, who by the great trade between Canada & Albany are enabled to Supply the Indians with Goods wch otherwise they could not but under great Disadvantages, & hereby they make us Tools to the increase & Stability of their Indian Interest. We might then push a stronger & more successful Interest amongst them & have one of the most powerful means in

our hands to draw off the Cognawagas from the French reunite them to their Bretheren of the 6 Nations & prevail on them to return to their antient habitations in this Province.

S[r] Charles Hardy is come up to Albany in order to push forward the p[r]esent expedition I hope to See and hear when I propose to lay this matter before him, but I foresee that if S[r] Charles embraces my Sentiments & tries to push them into effect he will meet with great opposition from the Dutch Traders at Albany who by their cabals & weight in the Assembly may perhaps Distress or at least vex him. Those People are So devoted to their own private Profit that every other public Principle has ever been Sacrificed to it.

I will detain Your Lordships no longer than to assure you of my most Sincere Inclinations to promote what appears to me for the hon[r] and Interest of His Majesties Service and that I am

My Lords
Your Lordships
Most Obe[t] hum Serv[t]

To the Right Honourable
& Honourable the Lords
of Trade &[c].

endorsed
Gen[l]. Johnsons Letter to the
Lords of Trade 24 Sep[r]. 1755.

THE LORDS OF TRADE TO GENL. JOHNSON.

Whitehall, October ye 9th 1755.

Sir

I am directed by the Lords Commiss[rs] for trade and Plantations to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter dated at Albany the 21[st] of July, acquainting their Lordships with your having been appointed by the late General Braddock to the sole Superintendency and Management of the Affairs of the six united Nations of Indians, their Allies and Dependants, and inclosing a Copy of the Minutes of your Proceedings at the Interview held with them at Mount Johnson in consequence thereof.

The many Proofs which their Lordships had received, not only during the last War, but since, of your great Ability & Influence

in the Management of the Affairs of the Indians, and in keeping them steady to their Engagements, notwithstanding the Artifice of the ffrench on one side, and the Abuse and Neglect of our own Colonies on the other, induced their Lordships to think it their Duty to recommend you to His Majesty for this important Trust upon the present great Occasion; and when their Lordships reflect upon the happy Consequences with which that Appointment has been attended, and that perhaps it was the only means left of preserving the Friendship and gaining the Assistance of the Indians, it gives them the greatest Pleasure that their Recommendation had the desired Effect.

The Number of Indians which attended the Meeting at Mount Johnson, so much larger than had ever appeared at any former Interview, at least of late years, was a happy Omen of Success, & their Lordships hope the manner in which the Treaty with them was conducted, and the prudent and forcible Arguments which were used to engage them to take part with Us in our Attempts to dispossess the ffrench of their Encroachments, will have the Effect to fix them stedfast in Our Interest.

If the Indians are really sincere in their Declarations, and We on our part observe a proper conduct towards them, by seeking the most effectual means of redressing the Grievances and Impositions they so justly complain of, and by inviolably adhering to Our Engagements with them, this well tim'd Renewal of the Covenant-Chain with them, will, their Lordships doubt not, be attended with all the happy Consequences so strongly mark'd out in your Letter.

The Transactions at Albany at the last Interview there, clearly marked out the Necessity and Expediency of a speedy, impartial and effectual Examination into these Complaints of the Indians with respect to the Kayoderasseras & Conojoharry Patents, and other like Violations of Our Treaties and Engagements with them, and that the Indians may be fully convinced that there was no want of a proper Attention on the part of Government here to these important Matters, I am directed to inclose to you a Copy of the Instructions given to the present Governor of New York thereupon, which you will communicate to them in case you think it advisable so to do; How far these Instructions will be effectual to obtain Redress in these Complaints of the Indians, must depend

upon a Variety of Circumstances which do not, nor cannot appear to their Lordships, but if the Directions contained in them appear to you to be ineffectual, it will be a great Satisfaction to their Lordships to have your Sentiments upon this Matter, and your Opinion, what will be the most effectual Method to obtain this desirable end.

It has long been their Lordships Opinion, that the Affairs of the Indians ought to be regulated, established and conducted under some one general Plan and System, adapted to their particular Situations, and Comprehensive of every thing which can contribute to their Security, Convenience and Satisfaction, but it will be impossible for such a Plan to take place whilst there is no Fund existing for defraying the necessary Expences of the Service; Their Lordships however would be glad to have your Opinion of what shall appear to you to be the most proper plan for the Direction of Indian Affairs upon such a general System, and if in the mean time, the Measures recommended by you shall appear to be immediately necessary as temporary Expedients to engage the Friendship of the Indians, and keep them firm in our Interest, their Lordships doubt not, but a proper Attention will be shewn to them, as well as to Mr Wraxhall's Situation (whose Salary appears to be greatly inadequate to the Hardships and Fatigues of his Office) by Mr Shrley who has now the chief Command in America, and consequently the Direction of this Service, and to whom their Lordships recommend to you to apply upon this and every other Matter which relates to this Branch of it. I am, with great truth,

Sir, Your most obedt humble Servt

JOHN POWNALL Secry

[Here follow arts. 90, 91, 92 & 93 of His Majesty's Instructions to Sir Charles Hardy, Gov. of N. York, but we have not room for them at present.]

GENL. JOHNSON TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF QUEEN'S COUNTY.

Octob. 10. 1755.

GENTLEMEN,

A few days ago I received a letter from Messrs. Schuyler & Depeister, of Albany acquainting me that you had sent to them 69

cheeses and 200 sheep, being part of 1000 raised in Queen's county on Long Island as a present to this Army, and which they had forwarded to me. This letter was read at a Council of War, consisting of all the field officers in this camp, which I summoned yesterday afternoon.

The most equitable and useful division hath been made of this generous and public-spirited present, which we could follow.

Tho cattle and a few sheep had been sent by some of the Provinces to their Troops, yet your sheep were very Seasonable; and highly beneficial to the Arm in general. Your Cheeses were highly acceptable and reviving; for unless amongst some of the officers, it was food scarcely known among us.

This generous humanity of Queens county is unanimously and gratefully applauded by all here; we pray that your benevolence may be returned to you by the Great Shepherd of human Kind, a hundred fold; and may those Amiable housewifes, to whose skill we owe the refreshing Cheeses, long contiune to shine in their useful and endearing stations.

I beg, gentlemen, that you in particular will accept of, and convey to your generous county, my grateful & respectful salutations for their seasonable beneficence to the Army under my command.

I am
Gentlemen
Your Most obedient and Obliged Servant
W. Johnson.

[From the London Gaz.]

Whitehall Nov. 18. 1755.

The King has been pleased to grant unto W^m^. Johnson of New York, America, Esq^r^. and his heirs male the dignity of a Baronet of Great Britain.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE TO THE KING.

To the King's most Excellent Majesty

May it please Your Majesty,

In obedience to Your Majesty's Commands signified to Us by Mr. Fox, one of Your Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, in his Letter dated the 18th, of November last, We have taken into Our Consideration the Copy of a Letter from Mr. Thomas Penn, in behalf of himself and his Brother, Proprietaries of Pennsylvania, to Mr. Fox, together with a Copy of a Message from the Governor to the Assembly of that Province of the 20th. of July last, relating to an Offer, then made and now proposed to be enlarged, of a Grant of Lands, in different Proportions, to such Officers and Soldiers as shall engage in the publick Service. Whereupon We beg Leave humbly to represent to Your Majesty,

That We cannot but greatly approve the Zeal, which Mr. Penn has by this Offer expressed for Your Majesty's Service, which in the present Exigency of Affairs certainly calls for every degree of Support and Encouragement which can be given to it; But as the Lands intended to be granted are said in general to lie to the Westward of the Allegany Mountains, We are apprehensive, that the proposed Settlement may comprehend within it part of those Lands (being sixty Miles from the Lakes into the Country) which the six Nations of Indians, by a solemn Deed in 1726, surrendered to the Crown of Great Britain to be protected and defended for their Use as hunting Lands; And in the quiet Possession of which, Your Majesty, in your Instructions to Sr. Charles Hardy, Your Governor of New York, has directed him to give them the strongest assurances of your Royal Resolution to protect and defend them, forbidding him upon any pretence whatever to grant Lands to any Person within the Limits described in the said Deed, but on the contrary to use his utmost Endeavours to prevent the making any Settlement within the same.

In order to remove this objection, by shewing that the Six Nations had voluntarily and fairly sold and convey'd to him all their Right and Title to the Lands now offered to be granted, Mr.

Penn (by whom We have been attended upon this Occasion) produced to us a Treaty concluded by his Agents with the sachems of all the said Nations at Albany in July 1754, In which Treaty We fin'd a Deed whereby the said Nations, for the Consideration therein mentioned, convey to the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania all the Lands lying within that Province, bounded and limited as follows, viz^{t}. "beginning at the Kittochtinny or "blue Hills on the West Bank of Susquehannah River, and thence "by the said River to a mile above the mouth of a certain Creek "call'd Kayarondinhagh, thence North West and by West, as far "as the said Province of Pennsylvania extends to its Western "Line or Boundary, thence along the said Western Line or "Boundary to the South Line or Boundary of the said Province, "thence by the said South Line to the South side of the said "Hills, along the said Hills to the place of beginning."

We must however beg Leave to observe to your Majesty, that from the manner in which the Treaty for this Purchase appears to have been carried on, from the unwillingness which We find the Indians at first expressed to part with any Lands to the Westward of the Allegany Mountains, from the Declaration which they made to S^{r}. W^{m}. Johnson at the Conferences which he held with them in July last, that nowithstanding they had sold the Lands abovementioned to the Proprietary of Pennsylvania, they would not part with more than half of them, and from their earnest request that the English might not be suffered to make any further Purchases, but that the Indians might be allowed to keep their Lands for themselves, there is great reason to believe that the making any settlement within the Limits described in the Deed of 1726, would give them the greatest uneasiness and Dissatisfaction.

That your Majesty may be the better enabled to judge of the Expediency or Inexpediency of such a measure, We beg leave shortly to state to your Majesty the Nature and Situation of this Tract of Country, the real importance of which to the six Nations will best appear, if We consider it in two lights, 1, as Hunting Lands, 2^{dly}. as a great pass in the tract of the Indian Country.

As to the first Point, the Inhabitants of this Country are Hunters, and as the Interests of a commercial Nation, in which it is to be

protected and by which it may be commanded, is it's Trade, so the great and main point with regard to these hunting Nations, if the expression may be allowed, is to have the Command of the hunting Grounds, which so far as regards the Beaver, the most valuable Branch of it, lie in the Environs of the great Lakes.

With respect to the second Light in which this Object may be viewed, it must be observed, that there is no way of passing either to the East or to the West, or from the North to the South but thro' the Lakes, or over the Streights, Falls and carrying Places in and about them, unless it be by going round them, which as to all Business or advantage is impracticable. Unless therefore the Indians be left in Possession of this Country, they must lose not only the Command of it, but also the Use and Benefit of their Hunting.

Possessed of this Country, they can descend by water-communication with the Streams to any part of the Continent from the Gulph of St. Lawrence to the Mississippi, for in this Country lie the Heads of the Delawar, Susquehanna, Ohio, S^{t}. Lawrence, and Hudson's rivers ; and the Light in which they themselves consider it will clearly appear from the account which they themselves gave of it some time ago to a Person in whom they had Confidence at Onondage, viz^{t}. That it has many advantages superior to any other part of America, the endless mountains (meaning the Apalachian) separate us, say they, from the English from Albany to Georgia ; the falls of S^{t}. Lawrence and Sorrel River and the Mountains of Almouchousen separate us from the French ; If the French should prevail so far as to attempt to drive us out of our Country, We can with our old Men Wives and Children come down the Streams of the Mohawks River, the Delawar, both Branches of the Susquehannah and the Potowmack to the English; If the English should expell us our Country, We have a like Conveyance to the French, by the Streams of S^{t}. Lawrence, & Sorrell River ; and if both should join, We can retire across the Lakes.

From this short description of this Country, the Lines of Indian Politicks may be easily traced out, And their first Resolution not to part with this Situation either to French or English as Settlers; Their great Uneasiness when the French attempted to make a

Settlement at Niagara in 1719, which gave rise to that treaty of 1726, whereby they put their Country and Hunting Lands under the Protection of the Crown of England—Their Difficulties, when the Commissioners on the Part of Pennsylvania proposed to purchase part of this Country at Albany, and their Declaration to S^r^ W^m^ Johnson, that, notwithstanding their purchase, they would not part with it, are Circumstances which clearly mark out what should be the Conduct and Politicks of the English with regard to them viz. to leave them in Possession of their Country according to the Description in the Deed of 1726, and to undertake the Guarantee of it to them, protecting them and their Hunting Lands in such manner as to command both it and them, and Yet most religiously to preserve the Use to them.

Upon the whole therefore We are humbly of Opinion, that at any time, but more especially at present, when We ought cautiously to avoid giving any the least Cause of Jealousy or Distrust to the Indians, and religiously to observe Our Engagements with them, it would not be advisable to attempt the making any Settlement Upon the Lands, which by the Deed of 1726 are given by them to Your Majesty, to be protected for their Use. The Regard, which the Proprietarys of Pennsylvania have at all times shewn for Your Majesty's Interest and the Publick Service, leaves Us no room to doubt of their Acquiescence in this Opinion, And We have reason to hope that their laudable design of promoting the Good of that Service by their generous Proposal will not be defeated by it, as We Observe upon an Examination of the best Geographical Description and Dilineation of this Country, that there is within the Province of Pennsylvania a space of Land between the Mountains and the Limits of the Lands described in the Deed of 1726, more than sufficient for this or any larger Settlement which may be proposed. Which is most humbly Submitted.

DUNK HALIFAX.
J. PITT.

Whitehall
Dec^br^ the 11^th^ 1755. (Sign'd) JAMES OSWALD
ANDREW STONE.

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Mount Johnson 18th Decr 1755

My Lords

The Season of the year & other circumstances made it necessary to klose the campaign & discharge the Provincial Troops under my command.

When I first knew of my appointment to Indian affairs, I repeated my desire of being excused from my military command, I was Sensible & pleaded that it woud, as it actually did, So interfere with my administration of Indian affairs, that I could not attend them in the manner I wished to have done. By my Military Engagements I have not been able to be at my own House or in the Indian Country one day this four months. And now I am at last got home & am just entering into the administration of Indian affairs so as to form & conduct them to the extent of my knowledge and abilities for the good of His Majesty's Service, I am again obtructed & everything brot to a stand by Genl Shirleys Sending me a new Commission & Instructions for the management of Indian affairs & ordering me to attend him either at New York or Boston, the least of wch is 200 miles distant from hence ; this journey I am but ill qualified for upon acct of my wound the effects of wch I still feel.

I herewith transmit yr Lordships copies of Mr Shirleys letter, Commission & Instructions & also of my answer.

The necessity I am under of going either to New York or Boston, to know upon what footing I am to go on with the administration of Indian affairs, or whether I am to go on at all, will continue these affairs in a State of confusion, besides I am to have a meeting with Some Indians of all the nations at this place the of next month.

I propose to myself the Honour of writing your Lordships another Letter either from New York or Boston.

I am most respectfully

To the Right Ronble and Honble The Lords Commissioners of Trade &c. &c.

My Lord Your Lordships most Obedt. & faithful Hum Servt.

Endorsed Fort Johnson Decbr 18th 1755.

My letter to the Lords of Trade—

To the Right Honourable The Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations.

The Memorial of William Johnson of the Mohawks Country in the Province of New York Esq^{r}.

SHEWETH.

That the Memorialist in the year 1746 by the Appointment of the Hono^{ble} M^{r}. Clinton then Governor of New York, undertook the management of Indian Affairs, at that time in a very unfavourable Situation for the British Interest; and by great Application and Industry prevailed on the six Nations to take up the Hatchet and assist the English against the French. That during this Interval he advanced by Order of M^{r}. Clinton the sum of £600 for Presents he distributed among the Western Nations of Indians, which had So good an Effect on them, that they offer'd to join the English against the French, if the former would Supply them with Arms and Ammunition. This was neglected, and the Peace took Place Soon after. That the Memorialist hath also advanced several other Sums of money for Publick Services: Accounts of all which have been laid before the General Assembly and repeated Applications made to them to allow the same, as well by Recommendations from M^{r}. Clinton, as since by Lieutenant Governor DeLancey, but without any other Effect than the allowing of some Articles of his Demand, others only in part, and the absolute refusal to allow any part of the £600 abovementioned, the Assembly alledging that as the Memorialist laid out that sum by M^{r}. Clinton's Order, to him he ought to apply for Payment: So that there remains the Ballance of still due, besides Interest, which being computed and the whole reduced into Sterling amounts to That the Memorialist finding all Applications hitherto fruitless and vain, is oblig'd to have recourse to your Lordships for Redress, begging leave to lay before your Lordships this state of his Case, with the Account annexed, and that your Lordships will be pleased to offer the same to his Majesty, or to take such other Method for the Payment of this just Debt, as your Lordships in your great Wisdom shall judge proper and expedient.

New York 14th: January 1756.

Endorsed This was not sent.

LETTER FROM SECY. POWNALL.

Whitehall, March 5th. 1756.

Sir,

Since my Letter to you dated the 2d of Decr last, His Majesty has been pleased to appoint the Earl of Loudoun, an Officer of Experience, Ability and Integrity, to be Commander in Chief of His Forces in America, and to direct that two Battalions of His Troops should be sent from hence, and four others raised in America for the defense and protection of the Colonies against the Hostilities and Invasions of the French; and as the Success of such measures as His Lordship shall think proper to pursue upon his Arrival for the general Interest and Security of the Colonies, and the Annoyance of the Enemy, will in great measure depend upon his having a large body of Our Indian Allies, to act in conjunction with the Kings Forces, and such as shall be raised in the Colonies, the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations have thought it their Duty upon this great occasion to propose to His Majesty, that you should be appointed Agent and sole Superintendent of the Affairs of the confederate Indians to the northward, by an express Commission from His Majesty, being well assured, from the experience they have had of your Influence among them, and great Abilities in conducting their Affairs, that nothing can so effectually answer the great end proposed of fixing them steadily in our Interest, and engaging them in the Service; and that you may be the better enabled to answer His Majesty's Expectations, the whole Management of this Branch of the Service will be left entirely to your Discretion, and the Commander in Chief will be impowered to furnish you with whatever Sums of Money you shall have occasion for, either for building Forts for the protection of their Wives and Children, whilst they are engaged in the Service, establishing Smiths and other Artificers amongst them, or for making such other Regulations as may remove those Difficulties and Doubts in their Minds which have hitherto operated as an Obstruction to their heartily engaging with Us, and have induced some to enter into Engagement with the French; and that nothing may be wanting on the part of His Majesty to manifest his Regard

for them, Lord Loudoun will carry out with him a very large Present to be delivered to them.

The redressing the Grievances complained of by the Indians with respect to the Lands which have been fraudulently taken from them, is a matter, to which a very serious Attention and Regard has been paid; and every Measure, which His Majesty could legally and properly take to redress their Complaints, and prevent the like Abuses for the future, has been pursued, as will more fully appear to you from the inclosed Copy of the Instructions given to S^r^ Charles Hardy with respect to this important point; and as a further Proof of His Majesty's Resolution to protect and defend them in their Rights, I am directed by their Lordships to inclose to you a Copy of a Report they have lately made to His Majesty upon an Application from the Proprietors of Pennsylvania, with a Proposal for making Settlements to the westward of the Mountains upon the Lands purchased by the said Proprietors of the Indians at the Meeting at Albany. All which Papers you will communicate to the Indians in such manner and at such times as you shall think most proper.

As to the other Measures which you propose in your Letter of the 21^st^ of July last as advisable to be pursued for putting Indian Affairs upon a proper foot, their Lordships entirely approve them, and have no doubt but that those Measures, as well as any other necessary to be taken, will be carried into execution under the Authority of the Commission which you will receive from His Majesty, and the Directions which will be given to the Earl of Loudoun to aid and support you to the utmost of his Power.

I am, with great Esteem and regard,

Sir

Your most obedient

humble Servant

JOHN POWNALL

S^r^ William Johnson, Bar^t^. Secry

LETTER TO THE LORDS OF TRADE.

Fort Johnson March the 6th, 1756.

My Lords

Since I did myself the honour of writeing to your Lordships the 17th. of January from New York, I have had a generall meeting of the Sachems and Warriors of the Six Nations and some of their Allies, particularly a more considerable number of the most remote nation of the Confederacy than has appeared at any Publick Meeting for many years past.

It gives me the most solid pleasure that I can with the greatest truth assure your Lordships that the Six United Nations at this time give us the Strongest intimations of sincerity, and Fidelity, and that they are at length highly sensible of the treacherous, and extensive designs of the French, and from what I have more particularly observed at this meeting, I am convinced there is nothing wanting to cement and enlarge the Brittish Indian Alliance but unanimous and vigourous efforts against the common Enemy, to convince them we are in good earnest to put a stop to their encroachments, and at the same time that we are determined to protect and stand by them as our Friends and Allies.

I herewith transmit to your Lordships a Coppy of my proceedings since I came from Lake George, as also of this publick Conference, from which your Lordships will be better able to form an Idea of the present disposition of the Confederate Indians, and from the facts contained therein, what future expectations we may entertain from our Indian Allies. They seem sollicitous now to enlarge their Confederacy by bringing in the Western Indians which I have been advising them to, these severall years, as a point of the utmost Consequence, and I flatter myself it may now (if we are successfull next Campaign) be accomplished. In order the better to bring about, and continue such an important Alliance, the Indian Trade should I think (with humble Submission to your Lordships) be seriously attended to, and put upon such a Basis, and under such regulations, and restrictions that it may prove the greatest means of bringing in the most remote Nations in a little time. Your Lordships will observe from the Treaty what their Sentiments are upon this important Point.

The intended Congress at Oswegoe is highly pleasing to the Six Nations in Generall, who are now verry sensible of the necessity of enlarging and strengthening the Covenant Chain by a more extensive Alliance, and of maintaining that Superiority which their Forefathers by Conquest obtained over so many and Powerfull Nations. how far they Interest themselves in this, and the many other weighty Matters I have proposed to them at this meeting, will appear by their Answers to which I beg leave to refer your Lordships. from the measures I have taken to give notice to the severall nations of my intention of meeting them at Oswego and the Persons employed for that Purpose, I have reason to expect a Numerous and I hope a Successfull Congress.

The high opinion I have of the present Good temper of the Six Nations, is entirely grounded on Facts which are more conclusive than the most sanguine professions. The Onondagas, Tuscarora's, Oneidas and Aughquageys, your Lordships will observe have earnestly desired Forts in their Countrys, and that they might be properly Garrisoned this can proceed from nothing but a firm resolution of abiding by our Interest, and I look upon it a singular proof of their Fidelity. By this method the French have been so successful in their Indian Interest.—The Grand Monarch has employed his Troops to good purpose in that way, and I make no doubt all the Expence the Court of France has been at in Garrisoning the Indian Towns in their Alliance has been sufficiently compensated. I am fully satisfied this would be a measure of the utmost moment at this important Conjuncture, the Service I confess would be pritty extensive, and require a regiment, but the good Effects which such a step would produce, would abundantly make up the expence.

It would be verry necessary to provide every Castle (especially where there is a Garrison) with a Worthy Person in the Character of Minister of the Gospel. I need not repeat how much the French have done by their Priests even among the Indians in our Alliance, that we ought to counteract them in all their measures I think quite obvious I therefore humbly beg leave to recommend this measure to your Lordships consideration, particularly with regard to Onondaga, and Oneida, that two proper Persons of

unblemished Characters might be sent as Chaplains for those Garrisons, and at the same time serve as Missionaries to the Indians, how much may be done in that way, may be readily gathered from the Success the Gospel has had among the Mohawks, who are our most hearty Friends.

I beg the liberty to mention to your Lordships the Reverend Mr. Ogilvie Missionary to the Mohawk Indians who has upon all occasions done every thing in his power for the promotion of true Religion, this Gentlemans Sallary both for this place, and the City of Albany is verry inconsiderable, some further Encouragement to him by some Addition to his Sallary, would be of Service to the common Interest as it would enable him to proceed in His Mission with greater Spirit, and to support the Expences that must attend the keeping up of common Hospitallity among so mercenary a people.

At this Critical, and interresting conjuncture I am sensible the utmost attention should be paid to our Indian Alliance, and no measures left untryed that may have the least tendency to strengthen, and increase it. Wherefore I would humbly propose, a Steady, and Uniform Method of Conduct, a Religious regard to our engagements with them, a more unanimous and vigourous Exertion of our Strength than hitherto, and a tender care to protect them and their Lands, against the Insults, and encroachments of the common Enemy, as the most, and only effectual Method to Attach them firmly to the Brittish Interest, and engage them to act heartily in our favour at this, or any other time.

I have the Honour to be
with the utmost respect
My Lords
Your Lordships
Most obedient and
Most Humble Servant
Wm. Johnson.

Fort Johnson
March the 6th. 1756

P. S. After I finished my Letter the Chiefs of the Seneca Nation desired they might have a Fort Built in their Country, which I promised them, well knowing it will be the means of keeping out French Emissaries from among them and of securing them, and settling their former Weavering disposition.

This moment two Indians arrived here with the inclosed Letters, the one from Onondaga, is wrote by one of our Interpreters left there on purpose for Intelligence, the other is from an officer of General Shirleys posted about half way between this, & Oswegoe. I greatly fear we shall loose that verry important Garrison unless other measures are immediately taken. I dispatched an Express with the Account I rec^{d}. both to General Shirley and Sir Charles Hardy, & hope the former will send imediate Relief thither.—if not we shall certainly loose that place, and with it all our Indians

Your Lordships will pardon my taking up so much of your time, & excuse the inaccuracy of this & the many blunders committed in Copying the transactions of the meeting. Occasioned by the Number of Indians still about me, which leaves me no time to think, or write.

I am Your Lordships
Most &^{ca}.

NOTES FROM EVANS'S MAP OF THE INDIAN SETTLEMENTS ON SUSQUEHANAH IN ORDER TO FORM A SCHEME FOR ATTACKING THEM. 14 MARCH 1756.

Great Swamp lyes about 40 miles W: S. W from Cashuetunk or Station Point: from Bethlehem about 45 miles N N W: From Gnadenhutten about 23 miles N something W. This Swamp lyes just over the Mountains which Evans calls Cashuetunk Mountains, and is 25 miles from N to S and 15 from E. to W: The Bethlehem People say 4 or 500 Indians keep in this Swamp, and from thence tis imagined they send out Parties to destroy the Settlements.

Shamokin, lies on Susquehanah River, at the Mouth of the East Branch, on the East side of the Branch. *Nescopeky* the next Indian Town on the East side the same Branch is 25 miles from thence. *Opolopong* is another 5 miles distant. *Wioming* is on the West side of the same Branch 10 miles from *Opolopong*. *Matchasaung* is on the East side of the same Branch distant from *Wioming* 13 miles. *Solocka* is six Miles from thence, on a Creek that comes out of the great Swamp, and this place is distant from the Swamp 18 miles thence to *Canowdowsa* on the E side of the

E Branch is five Miles. From thence to *Owegy* the next Indian Settlement is 47 miles, from thence to *Osewingo* is 18 miles and from thence there are no Indian Towns on the E Branch of Susquehanah, according to Evans, until you come *Onochgerage* distant from *Osewingo* 12 miles.

The Great Swamp is 42 miles S: from *Onochgerage*: and tis remarkable that the situation of all these Indians Towns is such as renders it highly probable that they rendesvous at the Great Swamp, as the nighest part of it is but 16 miles distant from the E. Branch. and tis not but about 65 miles from Shamokin to the nighest part of the Swamp, and almost all the way by Water through the East Branch.

This Swamp therefore ought to be attacked if tis certain or most probable the Indians rendesvous there. But as the Indians if they hear of our Intentions to attack them in their Post, or if we really attack them there, will fly to their Towns to secure their Families, (if they are not already moved) the Swamp and the Indian Towns on the East Branch of Susquehanah should be attacked at the Same time: and the Parties that attack the latter should go strong as they may possibly meet with the Enemy flying from the Swamp to their Settlement for their own and the Safety of their Wives & Children.

Cashuetunk on this side Delaware, and Gnadenhutten on the other, seem both proper Places to build Forts at and to lodge Provisions and necessaries for the Army in. Being the nearest of any Place in either of the three Provinces to the Great Swamp, and the most convenient if the attack be made on the Indian Towns only. Carlisle the nighest Town to *Shamokin* is 25 miles from it.

If therefore the Indians have not removed their Families from their Towns, but keep their Wives & Children & old Men there, and only their young Men and Warriors have betaken themselves to this Swamp. It seems rational the situation of the Towns considered to pursue the following Method in attacking them.

150 Pensilvanians to proceed from Carlile to attack Shamokin, and proceed to the other Indian Towns upon the East Branch until they Meet a Party of the Forces from the Northward.

The remainder of the Pensilvania Troops which will be 316 to rendesvous at Gnadenhutten. & when joined by 100 more to march from thence to the West side of the Great Swamp.

100 Jersey Troops to march to East Town from thence to Gnadenhutten to join the Pensilvanians and the remainder of the New Jersey Forces, & the Forces of New York to rendesvous at Cashuetunk or Station Point, and build a Fort on the West side Delaware and

From thence to proceed to the West side the Great Swamp, there to meet the main Body of the Pensilvanians, and take their Measures according to the Intelligence they receive

If the Enemy are not too strong at the Swamp a Party of 150 Men should be detached to the nearest Indian Town which is Candowsa on the E Branch of Susquehanah, distant 14 Miles from the W. side of the Swamp.

Or if the Enemy have not taken Post in the Swamp, the Forces may divide themselves into three Bodies to attack the Indian Towns. Candowsa, Solocka and Matchasaung. After which a Body may be sent to attack Owegy & Osewingo and the other Indian Towns towards Shamokin.

The New York & the Jersey Forces that march from Cashuetunk to the Swamp, besides carrying 10 days Provs: each Man, should have a Horse to every 5 Men, which will supply them with 14 days Provisions more.

The Troops that march from Gnadenhutten should do the like & be furnished with Horses—1 to every 5 Men.

The Horses must carry besides: Oats suff^{t}. to serve them as long as they will be on the Service: & Men must be sent to return with them.

SIR W^{M} JOHNSON TO THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Fort Johnson, 28th May 1756.

My Lords,

My last Letter to Your Lordships bore date the 6 March, therewith I had the honour to transmit a Copy of my Proceedings in Indian Affairs from the time of my arrival from Lake George to that date.

I have since received Mr. Secretary Pownals Letter bearing date the 2 Decr wch Your Lordships did me the honour to direct him to write me.

Genl Shirleys interfering in Indian Affairs & that with so much personal Resentment & such Prejudices against my management, was a matter of as much surprize as it was Mortification to me. I had many reasons to think I stood high in that Gentlemans opinion, which I had always endeavoured to deserve & to strengthen. If my sense of Duty to that part of His Majestys Service wch his Royal Orders had entrusted to my Management, had not unfortunately obliged me to have differed with Mr Shirley in Opinion, I should not have troubled Your Lordships with a Detail on that disagreeable subject—but as it did affect that part of His Majestys Service I thought I could not consistent with my Duty be silent to your Lordships thereon.

Tho I have reasons to beleive I have lost Genl Shirleys Friendship & Confidence wch I wish myself honoured with for the good of His Majestys Service so far as it is connected with my Department; yet he hath of late silenced those Agents he set up in Opposition to me & of whose Conduct I complained to Your Lordships—

I have the honour herewith to transmit to Your Lordships a Copy of my Proceedings since the date of the last I sent.

The Slaughters & Devastations which have been committed on the Frontiers of His Majestys Southern Provinces, I doubt not yr Lordships have received particular accounts of from their respective Governors—It is certain that some of the Delaware & Shawanes Indians have been concerned in these Hostilities. till very lately those Indians were faithful Friends to us & lived in a peaceful & Harmonious Intercourse with his Majestys Subjects. What are the several & real causes of their Defection, I cannot take upon me at present precisely to ascertain.

I beg leave to offer to Your Lordships my general Opinion from all I can as yet gather on the Subject—

I would premise that the Defection of the Delaware & Shawanese Indians is not general, many I believe yet remain, if not firm to our Interest, not wholly lost to it.—

These Indians were settled in the Neighbourhood of the French Encroachments on the Ohio, some were settled where the French have now Actually built Forts when His Majestys Troops under the late Gen[l] Braddock were defeated, it gave the French who remained Mas[trs] of all that part of the Country an Opportunity to strengthen and increase their Indian Interest & Influence, they flattered they boasted & by persuasive & intimiditating Acts they won over several of those Indians who were before in our Interest and some who held themselves as it were neutral till they saw how the Event of that Expedition would turn out. Of these latter were the Twightwees, the Jenundadees & some of Chickesaw Indians who are as I am lately informed fallen in with the French Interest, but I apprehend more from hear than Choice.

Those Delaware & Shawanese Indians who live nearst to the Ohio being seduced by the French, went amongst their Bretheren who dwelt on the Susquahanna, & propagated those Prejudices against the good Intentions of the English w[ch] the French had furnished them with at the same time making them offers & Promises from the French & magnifying their prowess, kindness & generosity; by these means they won over some & spread a general prepossession amongst the rest against the English.

The Great Patents of Land w[ch] had been purchased & taken up in those parts & our extended scattered Settlements begining to crowd upon the Indians, had been a long Eye sore to them, infected them with Jealousy & disgust towards the English & they prepared them to be more easily influenced by the prosperity of the French Affairs & the ill success of our Arms; and when they saw after M[r] Braddocks Defeat & Death, our Military Operations ended as it were to the Southward & carried to the Northward, they joined the French and their Indians in their Depredations upon the Open & Defenceless Frontiers of those Provinces.

The Third & last cause I shall suggest is my suspicion that these Indians who used to be more immediately under the direction of the Southern Provinces, had been either neglected or injudiously treated at that critical time when the greatest address was requisite; something of this kind is hinted in the last proceedings w[ch] I transmitted to your Lordships.

These hintsI humbly submit to your Lordships consideration, as this is a very important affair, I apprehended I might with propriety offer my thoughts thereon. There are some other particulars relative to this subject for w^ch^ I beg leave to refer your Lordships to the Papers herewith. In those your Lordships will perceive a Meeting at Onondaga was proposed by the Southern Indians in consequence of a Deputation sent to them at my earnest request by the Six Nations, at w^ch^. I agreed to be present & named the Day. but as I was from Informations very doubtful whether the Southern Indians were come to Onondaga according to their appointment, and the Two Mohock Castles with some other Indians of all the 6 Nations (except the Onondagas) were so averse to my attending this meeting at this critical juncture, I thought it would be prudent to be certain whether those Indians were actually at Onondaga before I undertook my journey thither, as the meeting them was my chief inducement for promising to go there, Messengers were accordingly dispatcht, & y^r^ Lordships will see the answer they have brought from the Onondaga Indians, and that the are so extremely pressing for my coming up & give such cogent reasons for it that I apprehend the good of His Majesty service will not dispense with my refusal, I am therefore preparig to set off so as to be there by the time appointed & I have Gn^l^. Shirleys concurrence herein. I hope to meet some of the Delware & Shawanese Indians there & if so, to talk over & settle matters with them on such a footing as may be very Beneficial to is Majestys service in general & the Tranquility of the Southern Provinces in particular. Besides this general Meeting appears to be necessary on account of those uneasinesses & jealouses w^ch^. the Onondagas make mention of & which I find more or less prevails at present amongst most of the Indians of the Six Nations. One cause of which is from the Deserters of Gen^l^. Shirleys & S^r^. W^m^. Pepperils Regments in which are I apprehend a great number of Irish Papists & Transports who were listed from the back parts of Pensilvania & Maryland they desert from Oswego & other Garrisons up this River, shelter themselves amongst the Indians of the Six Nations or pass thro their Country in their way to the back parts of those Provinces

from whence they were enlisted & where they have Acquaintances & Confederates. from Malice & Policy, they pretend a great affection for the Indians, & invent Lying stories to justifie their quitting the service & ingratiate themselves with the Indians, who seeing they are surrounded by our present Armaments, being naturally prone to suspicion & the French continually working upon this their Disposition by false and artful representations of our views & measures, render these Reports of the Deserters more credible & pernicious. I am informed there are great numbers of them amongst the Delaware & Susquahana Indians who have done a World of prejudice to our Interest. I represented this matter to Gen[l]. Shirley & proposed to him to impower me to offer the Indians handsome rewards for taking up & delivering such Deserters as may be or may come amongst them.

Gov[r]. Morris has published a Declaration of War against the Delaware & Susquahanna Indians, & a small Body of Men are raised in that Gov[t]. & marched to build a Fort at Shamokin a Branch of the Susquahanna River. Tho M[r]. Morris has worded this Declaration with Restrictions in favor of all our Friend Indians, yet as it is published & this Fort building without previous Notice & Explanation given to our Indians it hath circulated amongst them in a confused manner & put in a bad Light by the Ignorance & probably the Malice of Reporters. And tho I am fully sensible that the horrible Cruelties & Devastations w[ch]. the Southern Provinces & Pensilvania in particular have suffered, call for their most united & vigorous Resentments, yet I cannot but humbly be of Opinion that M[r]. Morris' Declaration of War backed with so small a Force as the 400 Men he hath raised, was premature, & that it would have been more advisable if he had alowed me first to have acquainted the 6 Nations & our friend Indians living on the Susquahanna with his Intentions especially as M[r]. Morris in behalf of Pensilvania had applied to me to lay the Hostile Behaviour of the Delawares & Shawanese before the 6 Nations at the Meeting last Winter & he was apprized of the Deputation w[ch]. the 6 Nations had sent, yet before he knew the result of their Embassy, he published this Declaration of War, which as a friendly Meeting was agreed upon at Onondaga with a Prospect

of accommodating all matters with the Delawares & Shawanese at least such of them as had not left their settlements & absolutely engaged themselves to the French. I beg leave to observe to Your Lordships that while Affairs were thus circumstanced, I think Mr. Morris' Declaration of War had better been postponed till the Meeting at Onondaga had been over, when a better Judgment might have been formed to regulate his Proceedings.

By perusing the Papers herewith I conceive your Lordships will find there is a Foundation for the Observations I have made on Mr. Morris' Conduct. My sentiments on this matter I have communicated to Genl. Shirley & Sr. Charles Hardy who have transmitted them to Govr. Morris.

I have reason to believe Mr. Morris' Declaration of War, by Misrepresentations has not only alarmed the Six Nations, but will prevent the Southern Indians from coming to Onondaga & throw fresh Difficulties in the way of bringing about an Accommodation with the remainder of those Indians who were yet in a retrievable state.

Another thing before I finish this interesting subject seems to me of sufficient importance to mention to Your Lordships.

The half King and some other Indians of the 6 Nations were lately at Philadelphia. Govr. Morris had a Conference with them, acquainted them with his Declaration of War & gave them a War Belt to offer the 6 Nations in his name in order to join & assist. At the same time he allowed the heads of the Quakers who he well knew violently opposed all his Warlike Measures, to have a Meeting with the same Indians. They had & they sent me a Copy of what passed & they gave the half King a Belt of Peace to present to the Six Nations in their name, telling them they were Descendants of the peaceable Penn that there were great Numbers of their Brethren in that Province who were averse to War & whose principles were to suffer Injuries & leave Heaven to protect & avenge their Cause &c. &c.

These contradictory Measures & these Opposite Belts, the half King reported & showed a few days ago at a small meeting of some of all the 6 Nations (except the Onondagas) at my house The Indians could not conceal their surprise that One Province

should produce such Contradictions. And Your Lordships will I believe be of Opinion that it would do no great honour to our political Talents.

My Lords

I am sensible I am taking up a great deal of your Lordships time, but if I am not greatly mistaken the subjects I have and shall lay before you are of such importance to the British Indian Interest as will I hope justifie me in Your Lordships Opinion.

In my last Letter I gave it as my real sentiments to y^r^ Lordships that the Indians of the 6 nations had discovered at the then meeting, the strongest Intimations of their sincerity & fidelity, & that nothing seemed to be wanting to cement & enlarge our Indian Alliance but unanimous & vigourous Efforts against the common Enemy—

I will from no Motives My Lords misrepresent or conceal from Y^r^ Lordships what appears to me the true state of our Indian Interest. I am sorry therefore to acquaint Y^r^ Lordships that the 6 Nations in general & the upper Nations more particularly do not at present seem to be animated by so warm & active a Zeal in our favour as I could wish, & which it has been & shall be my unremitted Endeavours to inspire them with. Some of their Chiefs have in private conversation with me complained of our want of Vigor & good management in our Military Operations. They murmured at our inactivity last campaign at Oswego—They censured the weakness & knew the Deplorable state of that Important Garrison towards the latter end of last Winter for want of Provisions & told me they trembled for its Fate. They reproached us for laying up our Vessels the beginning of last October & that they do not yet appear on the Lake tho the French were sailing backwards & forwards the whole Winter. They were surprised the Great Carrying Place another very important post was so poorly fortified particularly at one end & such a handful of Troops left to protect it, They told the officers there that the French would certainly attack them & that it was not in a condition to make a good Defence. the event has shown they judged rightly & complained Justly. They reproach us with the Two regiments laying encampt at Albany & Schenectady & ask why they dont

march against the French. I mention these complaints & reproaches of the Indians to Your Lordships, as Causes of discontent to them of their forming unfavourable Ideas of our Military Proceedings w^ch^ tends to damp their spirits towards us & nourish that Awe of the French which hath & doth too much prevail amongst them. I have endeavoured by every Method in my power to remove their Prejudices, but as they form their Judgments from appearances only, it is an extream difficult Task to work upon their understandings.

Another Cause of the 6 Nations standing in so much Awe of the French is the Great number of Western & Northern Indians in their Alliance & which hath been greatly strengthened since our unhappy defeat at the Ohio.

These Prejudices My Lords are not the only disadvantages we have to contend with in endeavouring to raise & keep up in their minds a reputable Opinion of our Power & Consequence. The Cayouge & Seneca Nation are near neighbours to Niagara; the Onondagas & Oniedas are in the Neighbourhood of Sweegachie a French settlement on the River S^t^ Lawrence to w^ch^ numbers of those two Nations have of late years been debauched & gone there to live. Tho our Indians do not now resort to these Places as frequent & familliarly as they fomerly did yet some amongst them do occasionally visit there when the French & the Indians in their Interest, poison the Minds of ours with stories not only to the disadvantage of our good Intentions towards them but endeavour to frighten them with pompous Accounts of the superior prowess & martial Abilities of the French. These things are propagated amongst them and the truth really is they have had more reason to think highly of the French in this way than of us.

But my Lords notwithstanding all these drawbacks upon the zeal and attachment of the Six Nations towards us, I am presuaded at this Instant & I hope I shall have when the approaching meeting at Onondago is finished, stronger reason to be persuaded, that if we wore now ready to go upon Action from Oswego & things were a formidable & favourable appearance, that the 6 Nations would join us with a Chearfulness and vigor which at pesent dos not so visibly appear. And I must beg leave to give it to you

Lordships as my fixt opinion upon the most Deliberate Consideration, that the Six Nations will never be thoroughly fixt to the British Interest & Arms, until we strike some grand stroke & thereby convince them that we have ability to protect them & humble the French, without asserting our Dignity & Consequence in some such way as this, Presents & Treaties a Diligent & Skilful Managment may keep the 6 Nations Friends & Allies, but will not destroy the French Influence & Attachment amongst them.

Could we but give such a Convincing Proof of our Prowess, I will take upon me to answer for the Hearts & the hands of the Six Nations & to turn them with such Destructive Rage upon the French as would soon give a new Face to our affairs for this I am confident that the Six Nations almost to a man wish we had the upper hand of the French. They would not only I am persuaded thus exert themselves but bring over many great and powerful Nations to the Southward & Westward wch. might be facilitated by our management that way.

My Lords

It would not become me to animadvert upon our Military Conduct here & to take upon me to advise therein might be going beyond my Tether, but what I have said I hope comes from me in character & permit me My Lords to say in general, that speedy, spirited & active measures are absolutely necessary to support, strengthen & extend our Indian Interest provided the Sword is to be kept drawn.

I have in the former part of this Letter mentioned to your Lordships, that I am informed the Twightwees, the Jenundadee & some of the Chicksaw Indians have been obliged to submit themselves to the French since our Defeat at the Ohio & your Lordships will see that the Messasages who were invited by & promised Mr. Shirley to meet at Osswego this Summer will not meet there but will at any of the Settlements of the 6 Nations— as the former Indians I fear dare not and the Messasages will not meet at Oswego, I suspect the intended meeting of the Western Indians there will not take effect.

It happens very unluckily that by our Ships from England not arriving in their usual time this Spring, a sufficient quantity of

Indian goods & things proper for Presents are not to be purchased, I have sent to New York, Philadelphia & Boston for several things but cannot get them.

Sr. Charles Hardy has consented I shall give some of the Arms & 600 lb of Powder & lead in his name out of His Majestys Presents sent by him to the 6 Nations I heartily wish I had the rest of it, I wrote to him there wuld be scarce a more favourable opportunity of giving said Present than at this meeting.

I would humbly propose to your Lordships that if His Majesty is pleased to continue me in the Superintendency of Indian Affairs, that I may be allowed to order such assortments of Indian Goods from England as are proper for the Service, I am convinced this will be a saving method to the Crown, & that the Indians will be much better supplied. The Presents wch. Govrs. have brot. from England here have been ill sorted, many Articles bad in their kind & some useless, particularly that essential Article of Arms.

On my return from Onondaga I shall transmit your Lordships Copy of my Proceedings there & gave you such further Intelligence as may occur.

I am my Lords
most respectfully
Yr. Lordships

Forts are now building in the Seneca's Country, at Onondaga, Oneida & Schohere. The Cayouga Indians have not yet applied, The Fort for the Aughquagas is upon the account of the Disturbances to the Southward, deferred till the meeting at Onondaga is over.

Memorandum on the back of the above letter.

100ft. square the Stockads P. or Ok 15ft. long 3 of wch. at least to be sunk in the ground well pounded & rammed & ye 2 touching sides square so as to lay close Loop holes to be made 4 ft dise.; 2 Bl. Hses. 20ft. sq. below & above to project 1½ foot over ye Beams well roofd & shingled & a good Sentry Box on the top of each. a good Gate of 3 Inc oak Pl. & iron hinges & a small Gate of Oak Plank of same thicks.

Endorsed.

Fort Johnson May 28th. 1756

My Letter to the Lords
of Trade & Plantations
with Indn. Proceedings.

EXTRACT FROM SIR WILLIAM JOHNSTONS PROCEEDINGS AT THE INDIAN CONGRESS AT ONONDAGA.

The Informations of an Oneida Indian who hath Resided for Some time past at Swegachie and latly Came from Canada.

That the French had Assembled in the Neibourhood of Cadaraghqui and Swegachie about 800 Indians, Ottowawas and Other Nations. That upon his and the Other Swegachie Indians Return from Onondaga they were Determined to march 2000 Men to the Oswego falls (about 12 Miles from Oswego) Their Build a Strong Fort, and Prevent Provisions, or Reinforcements from going by Water to Oswego. That another party were to March the New Road from Swegachie, and Build a Fort at the West End of the Oneida Lake, When these Posts were Secured, a Third Party were to make a Descent upon the German Flatts, Destroy our Magazine there, cut off the Garrison and Inhabitants and burn the Settlements, A fourth party were to Attack S^{r}. William Johnstons house, kill or take him, and Ravage the Settlements on that part of the Mohawk River.

This Account he Said he had receiv'd from the Priest and Commanding Officer at Swegachie alias Gallette.

S^{r}. William Asked him how the French were as to provisions, He Said he Saw Great Plenty every where, and that the Kings Stores houses at Montreal were full of all Kinds. That the French had 3 Sloops, and had Built 2 Large Vessels of 2 Masts, which were ready to Navigate Lake Ontario.

S^{r}. William then told him, that he would have him return to Swegachie as soon as Possible, and Gather all the Intelligence he Could, and bring it to him, that this would be a determinate proof of his Fidelity and Sincere Repentance for what had past, and if he would take pains, and make himself Master, of the Strength, and Intended Operations of the French &c. he would Reward him According to the Consequence of his Intelligence from a 100 to 150 p^{cs}. of 8

He engaged himself for this Service, and that he would return

as Soon as possible, with the fullest and best Accounts he Could Obtain.

A true Extract from the Original Minutes
Examined by me
Signed PETER WRAXALL
Secr. for Indian Affairs.

SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON TO THE LORDS OF TRADE.

Albany 17th July 1756.

MY LORDS.

I had the honour of writing your Lordships the latter end of May last & at the Same time of transmitting a Copy of my proceedings from the last date to that time. My proceedings at the late Onondaga meeting & at the Subsequent Treaty with the Shawnese & Delaware Indians at my House wch ended 2 days ago, I cannot possibly transmit to your Lordships by this opportunity as they will require more time to copy than the Stay of the Packet Boat here will admit of, They Shall be got ready to transmit to your Lordships by the next man of War or Packet wch Sails for England. but I think it my Duty to give your Lordships the earliest Intelligence in my power of the chief Points wch have occurred at these meetings.

In my last Letter to your Lordships I mentioned the Several causes of that Uneasiness & Coldness to our Interest wch I had reason to Suspect prevailed amongst the Six Nations, particularly the Upper Nations.

The meeting at Onondaga confirmed my Suspicions, & I found the French had Made an advantage of this Disposition as had So much infected the Six Nations, that it required a variety of arguments, my utmost Influence & most vigorous endeavours to compose their Tempers, to expel the French Poison & reanimate them towards our Interests.

All this however I was so happy as to Succeed in and I can with great Truth assure your Lordships, that at the conclusion of this important meeting, the Six Nations appeared to me Sincerely disposed to Second any vigorous attempts which might be made on

our Side against the French. They have engaged to put on foot amongst all their allies, a negotiation to join with them in our favour. They have promised to make the most vigorous efforts to draw off from the French Interest & Settlements those of their People who have gone over that way. I have reason to believe they begin to be Somewhat Jealous of the French, a point I have long laboured to bring about & am now in hopes it may in Some measure take place, if it Should operate to any height it will be attended with very favourable Consequences to his Majestys Service.

At this meeting I also obtained the consent of the 6 Nations to cut a Road to Oswego thro their Country with their promise of Assisting in laying it out, and also for building a Fort at Oswego Falls 12 miles from Oswego provided that upon an accommodation with France it Shall be either demolished or put into the hands of the 6 Nations. The Enemy by the Intelligence I received at Onondaga are determed to take post there with a considerable Force & build a respectable Fort to cut off our Communication with Oswego, & if they do, it will very much Distress that Garrison & require our attempts to beat them off in order to preserve Oswego.

These were the Capital Points I negotiated at Onondaga. Some of the Shawanese & Delaware Indians were there but until the Congress was upon the point of being closed, did not come in a suff^{t}. number to enter upon Business & conclude affairs relating to them with proper Authority. That Treaty was therefore adjourned to my House, & those Indians with a Deputation of the Six Nations came down to Fort Johnson, where were Present, The Said Six Nation Deputies—the King or Chief of the Shawanese, The King or Chief of the Delawares, Settled on the Susquehanna & its Branches & great number of the Mehicander or River Indians whom I lately have drawn up from the Frontiers of this Province & New Jersey to Settle near to & under the Protections of our faithful allies the Mohocks—These Indians were originally Delawares & are Still regarded as Bretheren by them.

At this Treaty the Shawanese chief on behalf of his People denied their having been concerned in any of the late Hostilities committed on the Southern Provinces, that they have & shall

continue to observe in conjunction with their Bretheren of the Six Nations, an inviolable attachment to their Bretheren the English—That the Shawanese who are Settled on the Ohio have been many of them seduced by the French & their Indians to join in their late Hostilities upon the Southern Provinces, But that he had & should continue to use his utmost Influence to withdraw them from that Interest.

The Delaware King or chief confessed that some of his people had been deceived and deluded by the French & the Delawares who lived near to Fort Duquesne, to join them in their late Hostilities. But that the Message I sent to them by the 6 Nation Delegates last winter & what past in both our names at the Treaty held in consequence of that Delegation at Otsiningo, had opened their Eyes & that from that time his People had laid down the Hatchet & ceased from further Hostilities.

He expressed his sorrow & repentance for w^{t} had past & asked Pardon with all the marks of a sincere contrition.

In the most solemn manner he received the covenant chain of Peace, Friendship & Alliance in behalf of his People—he promised as a convincing Proof of their returning to their Duty & Fidelity to his Majesty, of their Sincere Intentions to maintain the Engagements now entered into to return such English Prisoners (w^{ch} he said were but few) w^{ch} had fallen to his People's share during the late Hostilities.

Both he and the Shawanese King accepted the War Belt Sung & Danced to the War Song with extraordinary Fervor & promised to follow the Example of the Six Nations in our Favour & whenever I should call upon them to join me at any time or any where in Conjunction with the Six Nations.

I concluded this Treaty with taking off the Petticoat or that invidious name of Woman from the Delaware Nation w^{ch} hath been imposed on them by the 6 Nations from the time they conquered them, in the name of the great King of England their Father & on the behalf of all their Bretheren the English on this continent, & promised them I would use my Influence & best endeavours to prevail with the Six Nations to follow my Example, The Deputies of the Six Nations who were present approved of

this measure, but said they were not a suff^{t} number nor properly authorized to it on behalf of their constituents, however they would make their reports & press it upon them. If this point should succeed & our military operations strengthen our consequence, I am persuaded the French will not be able to keep scarcely one Delaware in their Interest.

As my success in this Treaty with the Shawanese & Delewares will be I hope of most happy consequence to the Tranquility of his Majestys Southern Provinces in particular. The moment it was ended I dispatched an Express with a generall acc^{t} of it to Gen^{l} Abercrombie at Albany desiring he would transmit it forwards, especially as The Gov^{r} of New Jersey to my great surprize had at this very juncture published a Declaration of War against all the Delaware Nation, of w^{ch} the first notice I had or have since received, was from the Publick Prints, w^{ch}, as Gov^{r} Morris had upon my Representations to M^{r} Shirley & S^{r} Charles Hardy, suspended the Execution of any Hostilities against them in consequence of his Declaration till the Issue of this Treaty however, appeared to me a proceeding in Gov^{r} Belcher of a very extraordinary kind. I wrote also Gen^{l} Abercrombie that in my opinion, if any Hostilities should be committed against the Delawares who had entered into this Treaty, they not breaking thro it by any fresh Acts of Hostilities, it would I apprehended be of the most fatal consequence to His Majestys Indian Interest in general, & throw these affairs into a state of confusion, from w^{ch} I believe no Person could extricate them.

My Lords,

M^{r} Secretary Pownalls Letter to me of the 5 March with the Papers therein mentioned I have received & when I have the Honour of a consultation with my Lord Loudoun, I shall answer to the articles therein mentioned, as I cannot at present do it with that Distinctiveness with w^{ch} I would always wish & endeavour to appear with to Your Lordships.

I have the honour to be most respectfully My Lords

Your Lordships Most Obedient Most humble Servant

Endorsed Albany July 17th 1756 W. J.—

My Letter to the Lords of Trade—

ORDER FOR ADDITIONAL TROOPS FOR THE GERMAN FLATS.

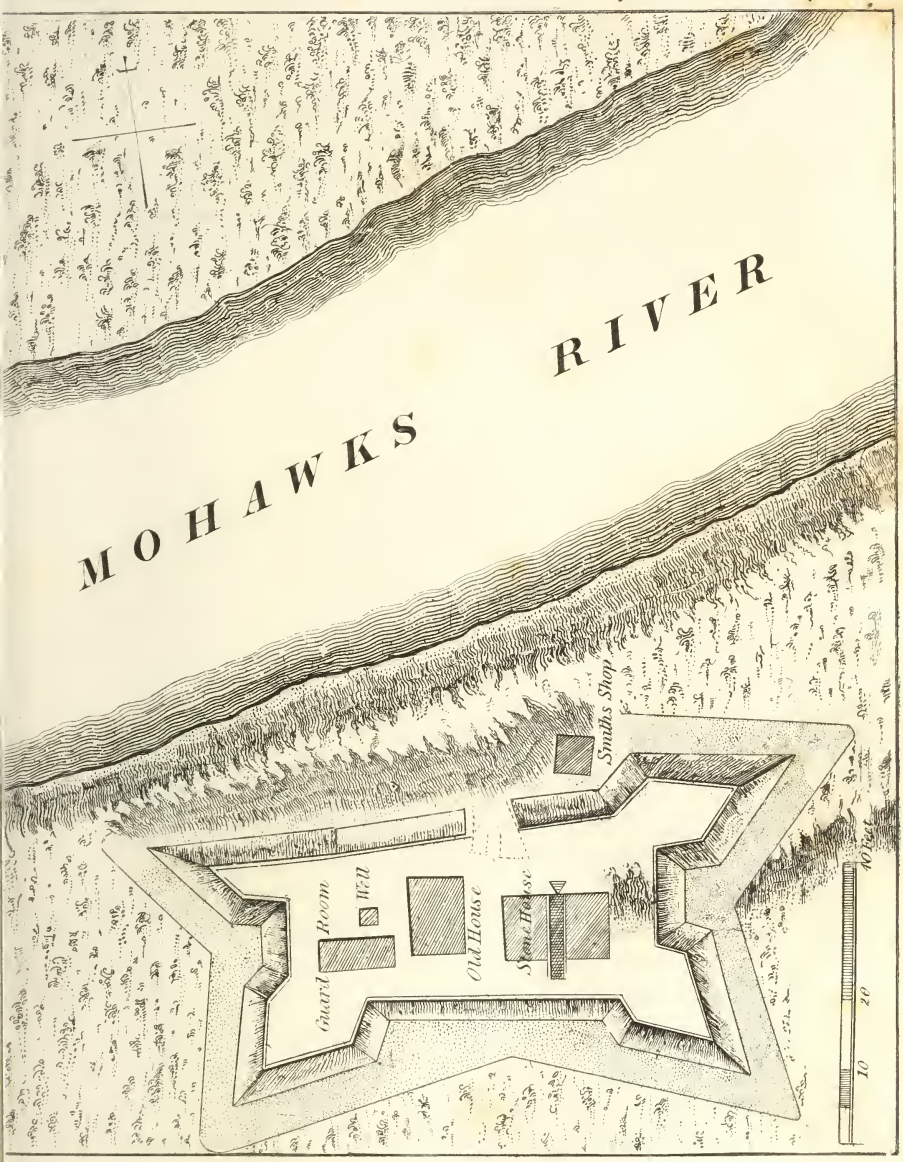
By his Excellency Sir Charles Hardy Knight Captain General and Governor in chief in and over the Province of New York and the Territories depending thereon in America and vice admiral of the same.

Whereas I have been enformed that of the five hundred Men lately ordered by Sir William Johnson Baronet from the Albany Batalion of the Militia to march to join him at the German Flatts only two hundred and fifty have as yet marched. And the present posture of affairs requiring a further Force to withstand the Enemy's attempts on that quarter, which cannot be otherwise supplyed there by the Militia You are without delay to order as many Men of that Batalion as will complete the number already gone to five hundred, to march as soon as possible with proper officers to the German Flatts, there to join the other detachments of the Militia and obey such further orders as they shall receive from their Superior Officer. And in case a still greater Force shall be required from the Militia to protect that part of the Country. You are to give orders for the marching of such greater Force and even to march yourself with the whole Batalion if necessary on any Emergency. In which case you are to require Such aid from the Commanding officers of Ulster and Dutches as you shall judge proper to march for the security of the City of Albany.

Given under my Hand at Fort George in the City of New York the sixth day of September 1756.

To Sir William Johnson Baronet or in his absence to the Commanding officer of the Albany Batalion in the militia of the City & County of Albany.

Plan and Profile of Retrenched Work round Harkemeis house at^{y} German Flats 1756



SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON TO THE LORDS OF TRADE.

Fort Johnson 10 Sepr. 1756.

My Lords,

My last to your Lordships bore date the 17th. of July. Therein I gave a summary account of what had past at my meeting with the Indians at Onondaga & the subsequent Treaty at my House with the Shawanese & Delaware Indians.

Herewith I have the honour to transmit your Lordships an authenticated Copy of all my proceedings at the said two meetings.

About the time the unhappy news of the loss of Oswego arrived, I had fitted out several Parties of Indians, some of wch. were already gone a fighting to Canada, others were on the point of their Departure. These parties amounted to near 140 men of several Nations, many others were coming down on the same account, & there was the most favorable appearance of a general active spirit amongst them.

The first accounts of Oswego put my Lord Loudoun upon designs of releiving it & by his directions I gathered all the Indians I could get together with the Militia, & took post at the German Flatts in order to assist Genl. Webb who was at the Carrying Place, in such operations as might be found necessary for His Majesty's service, and I had between 2 and 300 Indians with me ready for service. The absolute loss of Oswego, the Garrison & every thing there, was soon confirmed to us.

This unfortunate revolution in our military affairs entirely disconcerted all my measures & overset the Pleasing prospect I had, of thoroughly engaging the Indians of all the Six Nations in actual hostilities against the French, and thereby throwing upon them the necessity of summoning all their allies & dependants to take up the hatchet in conjunction with them, wch. would have been the natural Consequence when they had entered themselves into the War.

Oswego in our hands fortified & secured by us, & our having a navigation on Lake Ontario, was not only a curb to the power of the French that way, but esteemed by the 6 Nations, whenever they joined our arms, as a secure cover to them & their Habitations

against the Resentment of the French, w^ch^. together with the Forts I had built in each of their Castles or Towns, except at Cayouge, and for w^ch^. Garrisons were promised them, left them to act for us in full security. This I am persuaded they were determined to do either in a Body with our Army, whenever that should march upon any Enterprize, or go upon the Scalping Service in separate Parties.

But by our loosing Oswego, w^ch^. I may call the Barrier of the 6 Nations, & thereby the possession of that part of the Country, they were laid open to the Resentments of the French, who might at any time they were inclined to it, with facility fall upon their Towns & cut them and their Families to pieces, especially those of the upper nations.

In this light I knew the Indians would view the loss of Oswego, I found they did so, and that the spirit they had recently shown in our favour was sunk and overawed by the success of the French & the accumulated power w^ch^. it gave them.

Under these circumstances I judged the most prudent step I could take would be to summons a meeting of some of the Chiefs of each Nation as soon as possible at my House, in order to know their positive Determinations, & what part they proposed to act. My Lord Loudoun approved of this measure, & I sent a Belt of Summons thro' the Nations. Whether Delegates from all of them will come I cannot be positive, & I think it is doubtful; however I expect most will send, & in about a fortnight this important meeting will probably take place. The Speech I propose to make to them on the opening of the meeting, I shall first let my Lord Loudoun see & take his opinion and directions thereon as I look on it to be a delicate & interesting Point.

Notwithstanding this ill fate of our affairs, some of almost every Nation are daily coming down hither & entering into Scalping Parties w^ch^. I am sending out.

My Lord Loudoun has sent me a Specification of His Majesty's Indian Presents sent by him, & was pleased to refer to me for the Division between the Northern and Southern Proportions. I have given my opinion in favour of $\frac{2}{3}$ for the former & $\frac{1}{3}$ for the latter which to the best of my judgment will be most advantageous to

His Majesty's Indian Service. I have also proposed to My Lord that the Northern Presents may be given by me at such times, in such Quantities, and to such Persons, as will actually distinguish themselves in our favour & realy go upon service. As circumstances now are I think this method quite necessary, and would in my opinion be always best in War time. The Indians are naturally a mercenary People, & Mr. Shirley's conduct last year gave a keener edge to this disposition ; and as it is now become necessary to buy their assistance, I apprehend it is best to make a sure Bargain & give to those Indians only who will act with us & for us, wch. is the method I propose for the future. I despair of their now engaging nationally with a sincere & active Zeal, & therefore I conceive giving Presents in the old general way, would be imprudent and an ineffectual Profusion.

As soon as the proposed meeting is ended, I will transmit to your Lordships the result of it, with my best Judgement of the general Disposition, Views, & Inclinations of the 6 Nations.

In my last Letter I acknowledged the receipt of Mr. Secry. Pownalls favour to me of the 5. March last, but deferred answering some particulars therein till I had the honour of a Conference with my Lord Loudoun.

I have laid before his Lordship a List of such Officers & Persons, with the Establishments I proposed for them, as would be necessary for carrying on His Majesty's Indian Service under my direction. But his Lordship at that time was so much crowded with business that we could not wholly finish that affair ; and indeed the alteration of circumstances since will admit of many particulars being suspended, till some more certain Judgment can be formed of our Indian Interest than at present.

I received the Copy of Instructions given to Sr. Charles Hardy relative to those Patents or Grants of Land in this Province of wch the Indians complain, and also Copy of your Lordship's Report to His Majesty upon a Memorial of the Proprietors of Pensilvania, both transmitted to me by Mr. Secry. Pownall.

As to the former, the effectual redressing those Complaints strikes at the Interest of some of the wealthiest and most leading men in this Province, & I fear that Influence wch may be necessary

to succeed, will be employed to obstruct. I have I believe before mentioned to your Lordships my humble opinion, that applications on this head on this side the water would I imagined fall short of the desired End.

I have the honour perfectly to concur with your Lordships in opinion upon the proprietors of Pensilvania's Memorial.

In the Papers I had the honour to transmit to your Lordships by Mr. Thos. Pownall now here. The Jealousy of the Indians with regard to their Lands, their tenaciousness upon that Article — their opinion of the present contests between the French and us, our respective Views & Designs — and the Influence these matters had on the conduct of the Six Nations, was discussed, tho' not in so ample a manner as the subject deserved & would afford. I am every day more and more convinced of the Truth of the observations contained in those Papers upon this subject, and fully am I assured, the 6 Nations are sensible that the Deprivation of what they deem their property will be the consequence of either we or the French prescribing terms to each other — and hence the chief cause of their Indifference in our Quarrel. The French have very politically possessed themselves of important Passes, We have openly claimed large Tracts of Country & attempted Settlements thereon. The Indians have not perhaps reach enough to foresee the consequences of the valuable morsels the French have pitched upon, whilst our indiscriminate avidity alarms them with Jealousy, and raises prejudices against us wch are improved by the French, & by professions only endeavored to be removed by us. After the French had taken Oswego, they destroyed all our Buildings & sent word to the Onondaga Indians, that they had now drove the English from their Lands & would not like them, keep possession, but leave 'em free to them and their Posterity forever. The French, in fact, did not want that Place, so made their Policy appear Virtue to the Indians, & the plausibility of it will doubtless influence them in their favour.

I think I have before now hinted to your Lordships my opinion, that the Hostilities wch Pensilvania in particular had suffered from some of the Indians living on the Susquahanna did, in some measure, arise from the large Purchase made by that Govt. two

years ago at Albany. I have more reason every day, from talking with the Indians, to be confirmed in this suspicion. I am inclined to believe, tho' this purchase was publicly consented to at Albany, some of the 6 Nations are disgusted at it & others repent their consenting to it, and that part of them do underhand connive at the Disturbances between the Susquahanna Indians and the Province of Pensilvania, whose raising Forces and building Forts on the Susquahanna River, tho' it hath very plausible Pretences, is at the Bottom bad policy & really intended to secure Lands wch. it would more for the true Interest of the community to give up, at least for the present. I conceive the most effectual method of producing Tranquility to that Province would be, a voluntary & open Surrender of that Deed of Sale, fix with the Indians, in the best manner they can, the Bounds for their Settlements & make them Guaranties to it. I know that this Land was fairly & publickly paid for & that the Indians are unjust & unreasonable to recant & keep the money ; but if the Times & good Policy require it, to yield will be more advantageous than to contest, tho' on the side of Justice. Besides 'tis private property & the general Welfare suffers by persisting in the Title to it.

I proposed herewith to have transmitted your Lordships the acct. of the Disbursements of what monies I have hitherto received, wch. is £10,000 sterg. ; but as I have for some time past been obliged to be frequently absent from home upon His Majesty's Service, it hath prevented their being closed & now ready, but they shall go by the next Packet, in the mean time I shall lay them before My Lord Loudoun for his Perusal.

I have the honour to be with the highest esteem
My Lords your Lordships most obedt. and
Most faithful Servant.

Endorsed,

" Sr. William's Letter to Lords of Trade 10 Sepr.
do. to Lord Halifax 11 Sepr. 1756."

PROPRIETORS OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OBSERVATIONS ON SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON'S LETTER

TO THE LORDS OF TRADE RELATING TO INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The Proprietors of Pennsylvania have considered the Extract of Sir William Johnson's Letter sent to them by the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Trade & Plantations, and are much concerned to see in it such Jealousy of their Conduct, and that of their Deputy and Agents suggested, without the least cause given for it, as they can challenge Sir William Johnson & all the World to shew any one Instance of their Conduct, that has given Dissatisfaction to the Six Nations, and which those Nations will readily acknowledge in any free Conference, the Proprietors & Province of Pennsylvania having been so much regarded by those Indians, as to be made choice of by them, to settle the differences that had long subsisted between them and the Governments of Virginia & Maryland, at y^e^ Town of Lancaster, in June & July 1744, which Treaty lyes before the Board, & is printed.

They cannot conceive that the last purchase made of Land to the Westward of Sasquehannah, could possibly be the cause of the Hostilities committed by the Indians living on that River, as it did not include any of the Land on which they were settled, or any near them, which will at once appear from the Bounds of that Purchase, laid down on the last Map published by Evans, the course of the North Boundary of that Purchase having been agreed to, that the West Branch of Sasquehannah might be reserved to the Indians, beyond the Bend in that River, and the Land sold is at a vast distance from their principal Settlements, which are at Wyomen, and on the Eastern Branch.

This is beyond any possibility of doubt confirm'd by the Conferences publickly held between some of the Chiefs & Agents of the Six Nations, as also y^e^ Delaware King appointed by them all living on Sasquehannah. & M^r^ Morris, Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania, in which they have never made any Complaint, or Objection to, that Sale of Land, nor in the Treaty with Sir William Johnson in February 1756, wherein M^r^ Hawley gives the Reason why the Delawares have committed Hostilities, does he once mention that Treaty.

This suggestion of Sir William Johnson appears to be the more extraordinary, from his having consented to a Treaty with the Six Nations, propos'd by Hendrick the Mohawk Chief in the Spring 1755, on their being greatly dissatisfied with a Purchase intended to be privately made by the People of Connecticut, to sign which they had gone from House to House, & persuaded some Indians to put their names to it, and which Treaty was to be held at Mount Johnson, for the Sale of Land on both Branches of the River Sasquehannah, to the Northern Boundary of Pennsylvania, which Proposal was communicated to the Lieu[t] Governor of New York, who laid it before his Council, and the Consent of the Governor & Council to that intended Purchase, provided it did not run Northward above y[e] Latitude of 42 Degrees, was sent by Col[o] Johnson to the Agents of the Proprietors of Pennsylvania, but no further Steps were taken to bring on this Treaty, as Hendrick & several other Indian Chiefs went to the Army, & were soon after kill'd in the Action at Lake George.

In answer to another Suggestion of Sir William Johnson's that "the raising Forces and building Forts on Sasquehannah by Order "of the Government of Pennsylvania, tho' it hath plausible "Pretences, is at the bottom bad Policy, and really intended to "secure Lands, which it would be more for the Interest of the "Community to give up;" They beg leave to say, that this Insinuation is without any sort of foundation, as it never would have been attempted, had not the Chiefs of the Indians living on Sasquehannah, & Delaware River, on their own motion, intirely, desired they should be built, at Shamokin, & *near Wyomen, for their own Security as well as of that of the Settlers in Pennsylvania, & promised at the same time to bring their Families and Friends to settle about, & between them, and also urged the Government of Pennsylvania, to declare War against the Ohio Indians.

The Proprietors have always taken every Method in their Power, to prevent the Settlement of Land unpurchased of the Indians, and can shew their Orders, Proclamations of their Governors, Reports of Magistrates, who have remov'd such Settlers in the

* That near Wyomen, the Governor, finding it only desired by a few Indians living near that Place has not agreed to build.

manner prescribed by the Laws of England against forceable Entrys, who have burnt their Houses, and destroyed their Settlements, as also the acknowledgements of the Indians of their Care in this respect, & they assure their Lordships, there is not the least Intention of granting any of the Lands which are not purchased, and of course not any about y^e^ abovementioned Places, which certainly are not purchased.—Their Governor has a standing Instruction never to permit any such Lands to be settled, and therefore must make such Grants at his own Peril.

They never had any dispute with the Indians, unless with some of the Delawares, whose Ancestors had sold their Land to the First Proprietor of Pennsylvania, and afterwards had Presents made them by the present Proprietors for Confirmations, which they readily Signed, as if they were the real Owners of the Land, but having still been troublesome to some of the Outsettlers on that River, by asserting a Right to the Land, but not committing any outrages, the Proprietors laid the Case before the Six Nations at a Treaty held in Philadelphia in July 1742, which lyes before their Lordships, and is printed, and after they had examined into every Circumstance, they fully approved of the Conduct of the Proprietors, and severely censured those Indians, ordering them to go and live at Wyomen, or Shamokin, under their Eye, and never to meddle in Land Affairs, to which they had no Right; having been conquer'd by the Six Nations.

Some of these Delawares went to live on the River Ohio and its Branches, and were kindly used by the Government of Pennsylvania, and maintained for some time before the Defeat of General Braddock, when they were persuaded by the French to assist them, on promise of being enabled to regain their Freedom from the Subjection they had been brought under by the Six Nations.

The Proprietors believe, those Indians & some of the Six Nations may not be thoroughly satisfied with the Purchase of the Land on the River Ohio, as they think it a very good hunting Country, and that the Indians would have been better pleased, had the Boundary Westward been the Allegany Hills, as they themselves proposed at the Treaty of Albany in 1754, a Copy of which M^r^. Penn presented to the Board.

The Proprietors will ever make it their constant Rule, to act such a part as shall be of greatest use to the Publick, tho' it it may be prejudicial to their Private Interest, but they are very certain His Majesty's Ministers, and particularly their Lordships, will never suffer any partial considerations to have an effect upon them, to the Prejudice of the Proprietors; they think it at this time very improper to make distant Settlements, tho' the Indians were to give their free Consent, but as they, on the contrary, are not well satisfied with the Sale of those Lands on the Ohio, the Proprietors are willing to wave that part of the Treaty, provided it be agreed, that if ever hereafter the Descendants of those Indians shall incline to sell those Lands, they shall be sold only to them, and they will give directions to their Governor to appoint proper Persons to meet the Chiefs of the Six Nations at Onondago, Sir William Johnson's or any other Place the Indians shall agree upon, to confer freely, and settle this Matter in a manner the most conducive to preserve a good understanding between the English and the Indians, without on the one hand being obliged to give up every thing they ask, which would make Treatys with them of no use, but to subject us to their contempt; & on the other, give them full satisfaction with regard to their hunting Grounds. They will only add, in answer to the last Paragraph, that they hope, private Property will ever be as much regarded, and as unwillingly given up by the Crown as Land in Provinces under His Majesty's immediate Government, and where the Lands are granted by virtue of his Commission.

The Proprietors now lay before their Lordships the Conferences held this Summer above mentioned, and are ready, as soon as they can be copied, to lay also Copies of every other Conference that nas been held between their Governors and Agents, & the several Nations of Indians, having nothing so much at heart, as to remove the least Jealousy of their Conduct, and approve themselves worthy of the Station they hold in Pennsylvania.

London, Dec^{br}. 11th. 1756.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PROPRIETOR THOMAS PENN ESQ^{R}. OF 12TH. FEBRUARY 1757

TO MR. RICHARD PETERS PROPRIETARY AGENT.

"I shall now write what my Time will allow me on the most "important Point now under Consideration, that of the Dissatis- "faction of the Indians, and the Method we think proper shoud be "taken to remove all possible cause of it, if Impressions made by "wicked People can be effaced, as I had received your Letter "containing an account of the Complaints of the Delaware "Indians. I informed Lord Halifax what I knew of these affairs, "and desired they might be fully examined into by Sir William "Johnson at such Place as he shall appoint, and to which the "principal People of the Six Nations and those of the Indians "who pretend any claim or complain of ill Treatment shall agree "to come, and that we will appoint Commissioners to attend that "Treaty, as a more indifferent Place and Person than our "Province or our Governor woud be more satisfactory to the "Publick and more to our Honour. I desired they would add to "their Letter a Recommendation to Sir William Johnson to examine "thoroughly into this affair, and make a Report upon it."

In the latter Part of the same Letter of the 12th of February the Proprietor says,

"The Letter from the Board of Trade to Sir William Johnson "will not be ready till Tuesday, and therefore I think it cannot go "in the same Packet with this, unless it is kept, that Letters "received yesterday by the Ministers may be answered."

EXTRACT of a Letter of the 11th March 1757 from Proprietor Thomas Penn Esquire to their agent M^{r}. Richard Peters.

"I hope my last Letter by the Packet will get Time enough "for you to prevent your holding a Treaty with Teedyuscung and "the Delaware Indians, and desire you will inform him that I "have desired, as the charge he makes upon us is of a very high "nature, it may be directed by the King's Ministers here to "be examined into before Sir William Johnson, and a Deputa-

"tion of the Six Nations in an indifferent Place, that the "Examination may be most fairly and equally made, we absolutely "denying the Truth of the Charge, and insisting on full Reparation "for it, esteeming such a Charge a greater Injury by far than the "Endeavour to deprive us of any Land their Ancestors have sold."

EXTRACT of a Letter of the 12th March 1757 from both Proprietaries Thomas Penn and Richard Penn Esquires to their Agent Mr. Richard Peters.

"The Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations having "communicated to us an Extract of a Letter from Sir William "Johnson Baronet, relating to Uneasinesses the Indians of the "Six Nations are under on account of the last Indian Purchase at "Albany; we gave to their Lordships an answer to it in writing. "And in the said Answer having proposed to send Commissioners "to any Place Sir William Johnson shall appoint and summons "the Indians to attend at. We thought it proper to appoint you "&c to be our Commissioners.

"During the Time this Business was under the Consideration "of the Lords of Trade, a copy of the Treaty at Easton between "Governor Denny and Teedyuscung, the Delaware King, with "others of the same Nation arrived, in which we observe, notwith- "standing neither the Delawares nor any other nation of Indians "ever so much as hinted that they had been induced to commence "Hostilities against Pennsylvania to revenge any Injustice done "them, Teedyuscung did, after being repeatedly called upon to "give a Reason for such a Conduct, assert for the first Time, that "the present Proprietors had forged a Deed and made an Alteration "of the Courses agreed upon to take their Lands from them, and "tho' he did not alledge, that was the Cause of their Incursions, "yet that it was the Foundation of their Uneasiness. We who "are extremely desirous that the Rectitude of all our Proceedings "with the Indians shoud appear in the most publick Light, and "that no Suspicion of contrary Measures on our Part shoud ever "exist, did instantly acquaint the Lords Commissioners for Trade "and Plantations with this new Pretence, and made it our earnest

"Request to them, that they woud give Directions to Sir William "Johnson at the same Time he met the Indians to settle the "Bounds of the Treaty at Albany, to examine into the Truth of "this Report and inform them of the Result of such Examination."

The above is a true Extract from the Propty Letters to me compared with the originals by me.

RICHARD PETERS.

18th Augt 1757

GOV. HARDY TO SIR WM. JOHNSON.

Fort George, New York 16 May 1757

SIR

Having laid your letter of the 21st. of April last before the Council, and in consequence of their opinion conferred with the Earl of Loudain as to the release of the two Indians confined in the goal at Albany, His Lordship was of opinion it was necessary in the present posture of the Publick affairs to indulge the Jenango Indians in their request, & on my communicating his Sentiments to the Council they advised that Vangelder the Father and his Son should both be discharged and tis now a week Since orders were sent for that purpose to the Sherif. This Complyance in the Government will I hope be attended with the good Consequences you apprehend from it: but I am Sorry to find that the Family of this Vangelder Still persist in the Same wicked Practices, as appears by their being present in a riot wch. happened on the 7th Instant in the Manor of Livingston, in which one man was killed and several wounded, one of whom it is Said is Since dead of his wounds. Had this been known here before the orders were Sent to the Sherif, it would probably have prevented their being issued. Mr. Livingston represents that the Rioters have lately purchased a considerable part of His Manor of the Stockbridge Indians, who have undertaken to assist them in Settling the Lands. If this be the case as is very probable from Vangelder & his Sons being principals, I think it is absolutely necessary that you use your endeavours to diswade the Indians of Stockbridge from intermedling in this unhappy affair, and as it must probably

have been them who Solicited the Indians of Jenango to request the discharge of Vangelder and his Son, it appears to me that the Jenango Indians will think it incumbent on them to interpose by preventing (as much as lies in their power) the Stockbridge Indians from concerning themselves in this matter.

Sir William Johnson Baronet

endorsed. 16 May 1757
L^re from Sir Charles to
Sir William Johnson.

SIR W^M. JOHNSON TO THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Fort Johnson June 18. 1757.

My Lords

In the last Letter I had the honour to write your Lordships, I acqainted you, that I had just then finished a Meeting with the Six Nations, wherein I had charged them with their Inactivity in aiding & assisting His Majestys Arms, & had insisted upon their giving me the reasons for their Backwardness & Coolness, and also to know possitively from them what their future Resolutions were without any Disguise. I then acquainted your Lordships, that the Six Nations told me, they looked upon the Matters I had laid before them, to be of too important Consequence for the Deputation then present to give me a full & detirminate Answer to — that they were speedily to hold a Great Council of all the Nations at Onondaga, where what I had then said should be faithfully reported, fully Deliberated upon and when that Council broke up, I should receive their full & Detirminate Answer. That therefore I defered transmitting to your Lordships what passed at the said Meeting at my House till I had the result of the Meeting at Onondaga, when I would send you both together. Accordingly My Lords I herewith transmit the same to you. I was in Expectation to have been able to have done this much sooner, but the unsettled state of the Six Nations amongst themselves, and the Confusions w^ch the too successful Arts of the French Emissaries have thrown them into, have delayed this Meeting at Onondaga much beyond the time they gave me reason to expect it would take place and break up.

Your Lordships will see by the Papers herewith, that the Three upper Nations, to wit, the Senecas, Cayouges & Onondagas, have declared themselves in favour of a Neturality. As no Deputies from the Tuscarores or Oniedas came down to this Meeting, I cannot say what their Resolutions will be, it appears probable to me that from their not coming down with those Upper Nations, they do not wholly agree in Sentiments with them. I expect they will come by themselves when these return, & let me know their Resolutions, but whether those will be more favourable to our Interest than what these Three Upper Nations have declared, I will not take upon me to assertain. When I receive their Resolves I shall transmit them to your Lordships.

I beg leave on this occasion to put your Lordships in Mind & refer you to those Papers I sent to the Board in Jan^{ry}. 1756, by Gov^{r}. Pownal when he went to England, wherein was laid before your Lordships the declining state of our Indian Interest at the time Gen^{l}. Braddocks Commission put the Management of Indian Affairs into my hands, and I told that Gentleman at Alexandria, I would exert my utmost Influence & ability, but that I doubted whether I should be able to prevail on the Six Nations in general to act with that Ardor in favour of His Majestys Arms w^{ch} might probably be expected from them. Our Defeat at the Ohio,—the Obstructions thrown in my way by Gen^{l}. Shirleys opposing my Management—The loss of Oswego, and our having reaped no striking advantages since. have been all Additional Drawbacks upon my retrieving & advancing his Majestys Indian Interest. And with respect to our Interest amongst the upper Nations, the Loss of Oswego was a Mortal Wound, as that Post was both a Curb upon the upper Nations to retain them in our Interest & a Security for them against the Enemy should they act in our Favour. I am fully persuaded the Loss of this important Post with the consequential Menaces of the French & their Indians, hath produced the present Neutrality agreed on by the Senecas, Cayouges & Onondagas. And tis probable our destroying the Works at & abandoning the Onieda Carrying Place last Summer may produce a Neutrality from the Oniedas & Tuscarores.

My Lords

I am extreamely concerned that the great Expence which this Service hath occasioned should not have produced more favourable Effects. Permit me to assure Your Lordships that I have acted with uprightness of Heart, with all the Oeconomy Diligence & address within the compass of my abilities to retrieve support & extend His Majesty's Indian Interest. I am extreamly sorry my Endeavours have not been crowned with all that Success w^ch^ I was unfeignedly ambitious of being instrumental to. I must confess all circumstances considered I do not think the Indians altogether so culpable as some People on this side of the Water seem to do—And I am truly conscious that if I have erred in Judgment, I have not been wanting in an honest & grateful Ardor for His Majestys Service, the honour & success of his Arms.

As I have My Lord Loudouns Approbation & Opinion in favour of it, I have told the Six Nations that I shall dispose of His Majestys Bounty & Rewards only to such Indians as will actually go upon Service. This I propose to make a fixt Rule hereafter as far as apparent good Policy will permit. This will probably in some Degree lessen the future Expence. however I must be so ingenuous as to acquaint your Lordships that even under present Circumstances, I cannot promise that the future Expences will fall very considerably short of the past. for as the Upper Nations (as y^r^ Lordships will see by their Speech) solemnly declare that notwithstanding their Neutrality, they are unanimously & firmly resolved to hold fast the Antient Cov^t^ Chain of Friendship & remain Allies to His Majesty & Bretheren to his Subjects, utterly to cast off all Notice & Expence about them, would in my Opinion be a piece of Conduct equally dangerous & impolitic in the present Conjuncture. And if My Lord Loudoun or the Commander in Chief should be determined upon such a Measure, I would beg leave rather to decline acting than put it in Execution.

If your Lordships should be of opinion, that from the present Face of Indian affairs, the advantages of this Service will not be adequate to the Expence they have & may bring upon the Crown, I shall whenever His Majesty may think it proper, with the utmost obedience & the highest Gratitude for the many honours he has

graciously bestowed upon me, be ready and willing to resign my Commission as His Sole Agent & Superintendant for the Northern District.

The Upper and lower Castles of Mohock Indians will I am persuaded remain firm to our Interest and tho their Intemperate thirst after Rum is a great Impediment to their going upon Service when they can by any means get it, yet almost all their young men are now out & going out to distress the French Settlements in Canada beat up their Quarters & obtain Intelligence of their Numbers & Motions.

I have taken a great deal of Pains to bring about a Peace between the Delaware & Shawanese Indians settled on the Susquahanna & the Provinces of New York, New Jersey, Pensilvania, Maryland & Virginia & I hope it is in a fair way of being accomplished in wch. Govr. Denny's candid Behaviour & fair Proposals if continued & carried into effect will greatly contribute.

Herewith I send your Lordships a Copy of my Proceedings last April with a Number of Shawaneese, Naticohes & Mohickander Indians who came hither & are settled on one of the West Branches of the Susquahanna. Also the original minutes of Mr. Croghan my Deputy & Govr. Dennys Proceedings at a Meeting lately held at Lancaster in Pensilvania. I think it also proper to transmit your Lordships herewith some Original Papers put into My hands by the said Mr. Croghan relative to some former Indian Management of his for the Southern Government, as I apprehend they may tend to open to your Lordships some Original Causes of Recent Events relative to the present War in America.

Enclosures:—1. Conference in Nov. 2. Indian Meeting in June. 3. Meeting with Del. & Shawan. 4. Croghan's Lancaster meeting. 5. Croghan's private papers.

REMARKS

Upon the Observations of the Proprietors of Pennsylvania, on a Paragraph of Sir William Johnson's Letter, To the Right Honourable the Lords of Trade and Plantations, bearing date the 10th September, 1757—

The whole paragraph of the above Letter which gave Birth to the Observations, is as follows—

"I think I have before now, hinted to your Lordships, my Opinion "that the Hostilities which Pennsylvania, in particular had suffered "from some of the Indians, living on the Susquahanna, did in "some measure arise from the large Purchase, made by that "Government two Years ago at Albany.....I have more reason "every day, from talking with the Indians to be confirmed in this "Suspicion.

"I am inclined to believe, tho' this Purchase was Publickly "consented to, at Albany *some* of the Six Nations, are disgusted "at it, and others repent their consenting to it, and that Part of "them do underhand connive at the disturbance between the "Sasquahannah Indians and the Province of Pennsylvania; whose "raising Forces, and building forts on the Suquahannah River tho' "it hath very Plausible pretences, is at the bottom Policy, and "realy intended to secure Lands, which it would be more for the "true Interest of the Community to give up, at least for the "Present.....I conceive the most effectual method of producing "Tranquility, to that Province would be a Voluntary, & open "surrender of that deed of Sale, fix with the *Indians* in the best "manner they can, the Bounds for their Settlements, and make "*them* Guaranties to it.

"The Proprietors are Pleased to Introduce their Observations "with a Challenge, to Sir William Johnson, and all the World to "shew any *one Instance* of their Conduct, that has given dissat-"isfaction to the Six Nations, and which they say those Nations "will readily acknowledge, in any free Conference"—

Tho' the real intent of the above Paragraph, from Sir William Johnson's Letter, was and its obvious meaning is, to Assign a Cause to which he suspected the Indian Hostilities in Pennsylvania, were in a great measure owing.....Yet upon Sir William Johnson saying, he was inclined to believe &c^{a}. The Proprietors are pleased to sound this unprovoked Challenge, which tho' to answer as well as to have given, is departing from the main argument; yet Sir William Johnson begs leave to say somewhat in answer to it—

First—He will now presume to Assert, that from many Private Conversations he hath had, with severall of the Chiefs of the Six Nations, they are not satisfied with the Conduct of the Govern-

ment, of Pennsylvania, in General, nor with the aforesaid Purchase, in Particular.

Proofs from Facts that 6 Nats. have not been satisfied with conduct of Pensilvania

Secondly—He will adduce some Facts publick, and upon record, in Support of the above Assertion.

At the Treaty of Lancaster, in the year 1744, the Six Nations complained to Governor Thomas that the Connoye Indians had not been sattisfied for their Lands. The Governor promised redress. In the year 1749. the Six Nations renewed the aforesaid Complaint, to Governor Hamilton.

(N B...It doth not appear, upon Record, "That the Connoye Indians, are to this day Sattisfied. . . . . .)

In the year 1750. Connageriwa, a Sachem of the Six Nations, living on the Ohio, came at the head of a Deputation. from thence to Mr. Croghan's House, and told Mr. Peters. he was sent down from Ohio' to enquire about the Purchase, they had heard the Governor had made, on the East side of Susquahannah, the year before from the Onandago Council, and said, they were entitled to part of the Goods, paid for those Lands, as well as the Onandago Council, but they had received no Part—That they were come down, to desire the Governor, to Purchase no more Lands without giving them notice, and desired the Governor might send that Belt of Wampum to the Onandago Council, and let them know what the Ohio Indians had said on the Head. Gave a large Belt.

The Indians, of the Six Nations, who were settled on the Ohio, were so Dissatisfied, with the Albany Purchase, made by the Proprietary Agents, and saw such bad Consequences arising from it, that they left the Ohio, and returned to their own Country.

In a Speech of the Six Nations, at a Publick Meeting, with Sir William Johnson on the 3d. July 1755. . . . They said. . . . .

"Brother—You desire us to unite, and live together, and "draw all our Allies near us, but we shall have no Land left, either, "for ourselves, or them, for your People, when they buy, a small "Piece of Land of us, by Stealing they make it large. We desire "such things may not be done, and that your People may not "be suffered to buy any more of our Land. Some time it's "bought of Two Men, who' are not the proper owners of it.

" The Land which reaches down from Oswego to Schahandowana
" (Wyoming) we beg may not be settled, by Christians.

" The Governer of Pennsylvania bought a whole Track and only
" Paid for half, and desire you will let him know, that we will not
" Part with the other half, but keep it. These things makes us
" Constantly uneasie in our Minds, and we desire you will take
" care that we may keep, our lands for our selves.

At a meeting between Governor Denny George Croghan Esq^r. Sir William Johnson's Deputy, and sundry Six Nation, & other Indians held at Lancaster, in May 1757, A Copy of the Proceedings of which, lays before the Board of Trade. There is a Speech of the Six Nations bearing date Thursday 19^th. May, from the whole Letter, and Spirit of which, it appears that the Six Nations have been, and are very farr from, that Satisfaction of mind, with the Conduct of the Province, of Pennsylvania, which the Proprietors boast of, and sound their Challenge upon.

The Proprietors are further pleased to add to their Challenge this Assertion. That the Six Nations will readily Acknowledge the truth of it, in any free Conferrence.

As the truth of this Assertion can Depend only upon a Contingent event. Sir W^m. Johnson begs leave to be of a very diffirent opinion, & from a Variety of Circumstances, is well Perswaded the Six Nation's never will be reconciled, to the Conduct of the Proprietors, their Deputys and, Agents, unless the Deed, of the Albany Purchase be Surrendered, & the claims founded thereupon in a great measure, given up.

The Proprietors say. They cannot Conceive that the last Purchase made of Land, to the Westward of Susquehannah, could possibly be the Cause of the Hostilities committed by the Indians living on that River &^ca.

Sir William Johnson gave it as his opinion, that the Hostilities which Pennsylv^a had suffered, from some of the Indians, living on the Susquahanah, did in some measure arise, from the large Purchase made by the Governor Two years ago.

This is the point to be proved, and more than this, it is apprehended will be proved by the following Quotations from Authantick Records, & papers.

Proofs that Indian Hostilities in Pensilvania did in some measure arise from Albany Purch'se

"Before the year 1742 the Delaware Indians com-
"plained that they were defrauded out of some Lands,
"or not Paid for them.

"It is well known, that the Purchase made at Albany "in 1754, gave great uneasiness to the Susquahannah Indians, "& from the time the County Surveyor, began to Survey on "Juniatta, and up the Susquahannah. The Delawares, Shawanese "& Nanticokes, then settled on the River, began to remove farther "back, some to Tiahogo, some to Ohio."

"The Ohio Indians, at a meeting with Mr. Wiser (the Pennsyl-"vania Interpretor) at Aughwick, after the defeat of Col. "Washington asked Mr. Wiser how those lands came to be sold. "he said in answer, that the Six Nations had only made over their "right of Sale, and taken an earnest Piece, and that when the "Lands came to be settled, that they should receive a Consideration "for them. At the same time John Shecelaney, a Delaware "Indian, burned some Houses, that were built on Penn's Creek "(below Shamokin on the West side) and said there should be "no Plantations made on their Hunting Grounds, and all the "Indians at Shamokin seemed very uneasie, and indeed obliged "the Surveyors to come away & quit Surveying.

In the Spring 1756, Governor Morris sent severall Messages, with Belts, and Strings of Wompum, by an Onandaga Indian, to the Five Nations, amongst which is the following just and remarkable Confession.

"That he found by woful Experience, that making Purchases "of Lands, was the Cause of much Blood having been shed. he "was determined therefore, to buy no more,".... As a Confirmation of Sir William Johnson's said Opinion he reffers himself, to the following extract from Margaret Williams's Deposition, who was a Prisoner amongst the Delaware Indians, sworn before him the 8th. day of December 1756—

"The said Margarett says, she often heard the Indians say & "declare most solemnly they never would leave off killing the "English as long as there was an Englishman living on their "Lands—that they were detirmined to drive them all off their "Lands, naming Minisink almost to the North River East (in the

" Provinces of New York & Jersey) also Bethelem & the Lands on " a paralel Line to it West, which the English have cheated them " out of."

In further suport to his Opinion, Sir William Johnson refers himself, to the Treaty Governor Denny, held with Tediuscung the Delaware Chief, at Easton last Autumn, and which is before the Board of Trade.

Sir William Johnson also refers himself to the Extract from a Speech of the Six Nations to Governor Denny & Mr. Croghan (before mentioned in these Remarks page 5—). in answer to their earnest call upon the Six Nations to assign if they knew, the Cause of the Hostilities & Discontents of the Susquahanah Indians.

The Indian proceedings this Summer which past at Easton, between Governor Denny Mr. Croghan and the Sundry Indians therein mentioned, and which Sir William Johnson Transmitts herewith. To the Right Honourble. the Lords of Trade, puts beyond dispute, and Demonstrates the truth of what Sir William only gave as his Opinion, in his Afforesaid Letter to the Lords of Trade. and he apprehends it doth very fully, Evidence, the Conclusions of belief, which he then drew from that opinion.

Lastly Sir William Johnson refers himself to the following Extract, from the Examination of John Morris of Lancaster County, who was taken by, & made his escape from the Delaware Indians, sworn before him the 27th August, 1757—

" The Examinant says he often heard the Delawares say, that " the reason of their Quarreling with & killing the English in that " part of the Country, was on account of their Lands which the " People of Pensilvania Government cheated them out of, and " drove them from their Settlement at Shamokin by crouding " upon them, and by that means spoiled their Hunting, and that " the People of Minisink used to make the Indians always Drunk " whenever they traded with them, and then cheated them out of " their Furrs & Skins, also wronged them with regard to their " Lands. this he has heard from many of the chief & oldest men " among them both in the English & the Delaware Language wh. " he sufficiently understands."

The Proprietors say, that as the Six Nations are not well Sattisfied, with the Sale of those Lands, on the Ohio, they are willing to wave that part of the Treaty Provided &ca.

As Sir William Johnson has never seen the Deed of Sale for the Albany Purchase, he cannot to his own knowledge tell how far the Purchase Extends. but he hath, in his Possession, a Report of severall Indian Transactions, relative to the Government of Pennsylvania, signed by George Croghan Esq. who was for severall years employed as an Indian Agent by that Government, in which Report Mr. Croghan says as follows—

"I never understood from any of the Six Nations, that they "deemed the Lands West of Susquahannah, as a Purchase, but "rather as a Deed of trust, and received 1000 Dollars, as an "Earnest Price, and looked on it, that when the Lands came to be "settled, they should receive the Consideration, and the Commis- "sioners, who were sent from Pennsylvania to make that Purchase "at Albany in 1754, Vizt Mr. Morris, & Mr. Peters, with the "Interpreter Mr. Wiser, having repeatedly Acknowledged to me, "*that tho the Land west of Allegany Mountains, cross to Lake "Erie, was included in the Deed of* 1754, *that it was neither "Purchased nor Paid for, and which will appear by a Private "Conference in Mr. Peters's hands at the time of signing.*

Certainly the Proprietors are not apprized of the Fact here asserted, or they woud not have made an offer, to relinquish Land, they have never purchased nor allowed it to have been put in a Deed of Sale.

In answer to Sir William Johnsons Opinion about the Government of Pennsylva. raising Forces, and building Forts on the Susquahannah River.

"The proprietors say. this Insinuation is without any sort of "Foundation, as it never would have been attempted, had not the "Chiefs of the Indians living on Susquahannah & Delaware River, "on their own motion entirely, Desired they should be built at "Shamokin and near Wyoming, for their own Security.

"In this the Proprietors must Certainly be misinformed, for "none of the Indians on Susquahannah, or Delaware, ever requested "any Forts to be built there. Indeed after the Defeat of General

"Braddock, Scarvyade, Coyseuntenego, and two, or three more "Ohio Indians, who had left their Country on the first approach of "the French, in the year 1753, did desire the Government of "Pennsylvania, to build a Fort at Shamokin, in order to Protect "their Interest with the Susquahannah Indians but the request of "those four, or five, dispossessed Indians, can never be fairly "Construed as an Authority of application from the Six Nations, "or any other body of Indians. Neither did those Indians at that "time desire War might be declared against the Ohio Indians. "However this request for a Fort, was not Complied with, at that "time.

In a Message Sir William Johnson received the 23d May 1756, from the Onandaga Indians, they say as follows—

"Tell our Brother further, that since we took the Hatchet out "of the hands of the Delawares and Shawaneese, they have told "us there is an Army of the English, coming against them (they "mean the Provincial Troops of Pennsyla. under Colonel Clapham,) "and that they think it unreasonable, and unnatural for us to hold "them in our Arms, and Prevent their defending themselves, when "People are just on their Backs, to destroy them.

"We are informed the English are building a Fort at Shamokin. "We can't comprehend the method of making Warr, which is "made use of, by our Bretheren the English; When we goe to "War, our manner is, to destroy a Nation. theres an end of it. "But the English Chiefly regard building Forts, which looks, as if "their only Scheme was *to take Possession of the Lands.*

Here is an evident proof of the Jealousy which the Pennsylvania Levies, and Fort building occasioned, and a Strong hint of the ends intended by them, as it stood in the minds of the Indians.

Sir William Johnson, well knowing how extreamly tender, the Indians in General are with regard to Forts, near to their Country, or hunting Grounds, and naturally judging a Body of armed Men to support as it were the Building of those, at a time, & in Places, where he had many reasons to believe the Neighbouring Indians (as it hath since fully appeared) were dissatisfied with the Government on the score of Lands, and encroaching by their Purchases, on their hunting Grounds, and crouding too near upon

them by their Extended Settlements. he judged this conduct in the Government of Pennsylvania was Impolitick, and he must beg leave to be still of the same Oppinion, and as he looked upon those Proceedings to be contrary to the true Interest of the Community, he did suspect they were pushed forward upon other motives. and to conclude, unless the Province of Pennsylvania, is both able, and willing to maintain their Land pretentions by force of arms against the Indians, Sir William Johnson, hath not altered his Oppinion, but doth, with a yet Stronger degree of Conviction than, formerly, humbly offer his Conception of the matter in the the same words as before, namely "that the most effectual method "of Producing Tranquility to that Province, would be a Voluntary, "& open Surrender of that Deed of Sale, to fix with the Indians, "in the best manner they can, the bounds for their settlements, and "make them Guaranties to it."

MR. CROGHAN'S REMARKS ON THE OBSERVATIONS OF THE PROPRIETORS OF PENNSYLVANIA

ON SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON'S LETTER, TO THE LORDS OF TRADE.

Albany, September.

"The Proprietors say, they can Challenge S[r] William Johnson, "and all the World, to shew any one Instance of their conduct that "has given Dissatisfaction, to the Six Nations—

Before the year 1742, the Delaways complained that they were defrauded out of some Lands, or not Paid for them, which will appear by the Treaty, which Governor Thomas held with the Six Nations, at Philadelphia in June & July 1742; Where Governor Thomas in his speech to the Six Nations (in Page 17) tells them that a Branch of the Delaways Indians gave that Province some disturbances, on account of Lands, which the Proprietors had purchased 55 years before, and paid their ancestors, for which appeared by a Deed, then on the Table, and Requested that the Six Nations should remove the Deleways, out of the Forks of Delaware, which the Six Nations did, at the Request of Governor Thomas, and Plac'd them at Weoman & Juniata. the one on the East side Susquehannah, and the other, on the West side of said

River, and gave them, and the Shannas, with their own People, that were Settled at Shomoken, all the Lands, west of the blue Hills for their hunting Ground, on both Sides Susquehannah River—

Complaints further made by Six Nations in Treaty at Lancaster pages 27, 28, 29.

In the year 1749, Governor Hamilton made a Purchase, for the Proprietors, on the East side Susquehannah, then the Six Nations complained, that the People of Pennsylvania, was Incroaching on their Lands on the West side Susquehannah, and desired the Governor might turn them off, as those lands, were the hunting Ground of the Susquehannah Indians—

At the same time They desired, by a string of Wompum that their Bretherans might Pay the Connays for that Land, which their Town stood on, in Dunigau, as they had left it, and Settled on Susquehannah. and they asserted that them Lands, was Reserved (when they sold the adjoining Lands to the Proprietors) for the use of the Connays—

In the year 1750, a Six Nation Sacheme from Ohio, with several Principal Men, with him ; Both, Shannas and Dellaways, came to my House, where they met the Governor's Secretary of the Province, just Returned from Dispossessing the People, who had made Settlements, on Junitia : The Lands Complained of, by the Six Nations the year before—

Connageriwa, the principal Man of this Deputation, of Indians from Ohio, told Mr Peters, that he was sent down from Ohio, to inquire about a Purchase, they had heard, the Governor had made, on the East side of Susquehannah, the year before, from the Onandago Counsel and said they were Intitled to part of the Goods Paid for those Lands, as well as the Onandago Counsel, but that they had Received no Part; That they were come Down to desire the Governor to Purchase no More Lands, without giving them Notice, and desired the Governor might send that Belt of Wompum to the Onandago Counsel, and let them Know what the Ohio Indians had said, on that Head—gave a large Belt—

They returned the Governor thanks, for turning off the Incroaching Settlers, as they said, if they would not Remove, that perhaps some of their Young Men might Kill their Cattle—

I think the foregoing Complaints, must Convince the World, that the Six Nations was Dissatisfied with, the Government of Pennsylvania, on Account of their Lands as well as the Delaways, Shannas & Connays, all which are facts, and can be made Appear in the Records of the Transactions, of Indian Affairs in Pennsylvania, between the Indians, and the Proprietors, Lieutenant Governor's, and Agents—

And I can't help thinking, but that Application of the Six Nations in 1749, to have the Incroaching Settlers turned off the Juniata lands; and that Complaint of the Ohio Indians, in 1750, so Strongly Desiring no Purchase might be made, without their knowledge from the Onandago Counsel, should have been Construed in its true meaning by the Proprietors Agents, which was that they were displeased, at the Governments Purchasing their Hunting Grounds. Notwithstanding all those Cautions, the Proprietors in the year 1754, by their Agents Purchased that Extensive Purchase, at Albany, by which I can't help thinking lost the Six Nations, their Influence over the Delaways, and Shannas, and in some Measure Occasioned a difference between themselves, tho' it was not Foreseen at that time—

The Proprietors say the Building of Forts, would never have been Attempted, had not the Chiefs of the Indians of Susquehannah, and Delaware desired them to be built at Shamochen and Weomen, for their own Security as well as the Settlers in Pennsylvania, and at the same time Urged the Government of Pennsylvania to declare Warr Against the Ohio Indians...In which the Proprietors must Certainly be Misinformed, for none of the Indians on Susquehannah or Delaware, ever Requested any Forts to be built there; Indeed after the Defeat of General Braddock, Scaroyade, Coyseuntenego, and Two, or three more Ohio Indians, who' had left their Country, on the first Approach of the French, in the Year 1753, Did desire the Government of Pennsylvania, to build a Fort at Shamokin, in order to protect their Interest with the Susquehannah Indians; (but the request of those four or five Dispossessed Indians, can never be fairly Construed, as an Authority of Aplication, from the Six Nations, or any other Body, of Indians, but at that time those Indians did not desire Warr might be Declared Against the Ohio Indians) but that request was not

Complyed with, at that time, and I suppose for the same Reason, that the then Ruling Part of the Government Rejected the building of one at Ohio, in the year 1755, which was that their Religious Principles would not suffer them to build Forts, or take up Arms against Any Enemy—All that year after the Defeat of General Braddock, the French, and Indians were Murdering, and destroying his Majestys Subjects, in Virginia and Maryland, and burning the Settlements, all which time the Government of Pennsylvania did nothing to assist their Neighbours, till at length the Indians fell on the Inhabitants of Pennsylvania, then the Frontier Settlements was Obliged to Fly from their Habitations—The Governor called the Assembly. They Passed a bill for £55000—And raised Troops, and set about building Forts on the Frontiers, to Protect themselves, tho' their Principles would not Suffer them to take up Arms to Assist their Neighbours, which had they done in Time when the Ohio Indians Repeatedly Requested it, and was hearty in the British Interest, they in Conjunction with the Virginians, might have saved the Lives of Thousands of his Majestys Subjects, and Protected their Trade, with the Indians, by which means they might Preserved his Majestys Interest with all the Ohio Indians to Lake Eary; The Spring following the Government sent Colonel Clapham to build Fort Augusta, at Shamochen, who sent a Six Nation Indian who he had with him, to Diahogo with Message's from the Government of Pennsylvania to desire leave to build a Fort at Weomen, and another at Diahogo, and for liberty to Plant Corn about them. If those Indians had desired the Government to build those Forts, out of their Frontiers, why did the Government apply at this time by Colonel Clapham, for leave to build them. The Proprietors cannot with justice Vindicate the Conduct of the Province of Pennsylvania, towards the Indians, as the Government has not taken one Step to Preserve his Majestys Interest, with those Indians, since the French first attempted to settle on the Ohio', as will Appear by the Abstracts from my Journals, and more at large on their own Records.

With respect to the Purchasses in 1754 at Albany, it is well known, that it gave great uneasiness, both to the Susquehannah Indians, and Ohio Indians of the diffirent Nations, and from the time the County Surveyer, began to Survey on Junata, and up Susquehannah, the

Deleways, Shannas, Nanteohes, and all the Indians then settled on the River, began to Remove further back, some to Diohogo, others to Ohio. The Six Nations drew themselves off, to their own Country foreseeing some bad Consequence—The Ohio Indians at a meeting with Mr Wiser, the Interpretar of the Province at Augwhich after the Defeat of Coll Washington asked Mr Wiser, how them Lands came to be sold; he said in answer that the Six Nations, had only made Over their Right of Sale, and taken a Earnest Piece, and that when the Lands Came to be Settled, that they should Receive a Consideration for them; at the same time Johney Shecelemy Burnt some Houses that was built on Penns Creek, and said their should be no Plantations made on Their Hunting Grounds, and all the Indians at Shomockin Seemed very uneasie, and indeed Obliged the Surveyers to come away, and quit Surveying.

All the foregoing is facts, and can be Proved which I think is Sufficient to shew the World that the Purchases gave a general Discontent, to the Indians and I believe the Governments Conduct in immediately Surveying, and Opening an Office for those Lands at a time when the French was in Actual Possession, of the Ohio, will be thought by every, impartial judge, a very Imprudent Step, and sufficient to destroy, all his Majestys Indian Interest,——

"The Proprietaries say, as the Indians on the Contrary are not "well satisfied, with the sale of those Lands on the Ohio the "Proprietaries are willing to wave that part of the Treaty.

I cannot help remarking here, that I think the Proprietaries with great Justice should disclaim any Right to those Lands they ever had, except their Grant from the Crown.

I never understood from any of the Six Nations that they deem'd the lands West of Susquahanna as a purchase, but rather as a Deed of Trust and received 1000 Dollars, as an Earnest piece and Loocked on it that when the Lands came to be settled, they should receive the Consideration, and the Commissioners who were sent from Pennsylvania to make that purchase at Albany in 1754. vizt Mr Norris and Mr Peters with the Interpreter Mr Wiser has repeatedly acknowledged to me, that tho' the Land West of Allegenia Mountains cross Ohio to Lake Erie, was included in the

Deed of 1754. that it was neither purchased nor paid for, and which will appear by a private Conference in Mr Peters hands, at the time of signing.

Geo. Croghan

REFERENCES TO SUPPORT THE CHARGE OF INDIANS COMPLAINT AND DISCONTENT

ABOUT LANDS SAID TO BE PURCHASED IN PENSILVANIA.

1742 or before that year. Delawares complained that they were defrauded or not paid for some Lands. Treaty at Philadel. wth. Six Nats.

Vide Mr. Croghans remarks pag 1.

1744. Six Nations mentioned complaint of Connaye Inds. about not being paid for some of their Lands.

Vide Treaty at Lancaster 1744 pag 27.

1749. The same complaint again renewed by the Six Nations to Govr. Hamilton.

Vide Croghans Remarks page 2.

N. B it doth not appear that the Connaye Indians have ever been satisfied on this Point.

1750. Ohio Indians of the Six Nations, sent deputation to Govr. Hamilton complaining they were not paid for their part of Purchase of Lands on East side Susquahanna &c.

Vide Croghans remarks pag 3.

The proprietaries Purchases in 1754, gave great uneasiness to Susquahanna & Ohio Indians. what Ohio Inds. said to Mr. Wieser & he to them with regard to said purchase

Vide Croghans remarks pages 7 & 8

Mr. Norris, Mr. Peters & Mr. Wiesers Confessions to Mr. Croghan that the Lands west of the Allegany Mountains were not purchased from the Inds.

Vide do page 9.

Inds. of Six Nations complaint of purchasing Lands & desire yt. certain Lands on Susquahanna might not be settled &c.

Vide their speech to Sir Wm. Johnson 3 July 1754. Records pag 66–fol No. 5.

Message of the Onondaga Indians to Sir Wm. Johnson about Shawa. & Delewares. & Eng. possessing Lands.

Vide Records fol. No 5 pag 205 & 206.

Govr. Morris. Acknowledgmt. to Onondaga Indians yt. Purchase of Lands had occasioned much of the blood spilt &c.

Vide Records pag 347. See also Col. Claphams Papers & Letters from Mr Peters & Govr. Morris.

Little Abraham the Mohock Sachems Speech at Lancaster to Gov^r. Dunny explaining causes of Delewares Quarrels & Hostilities—Lands purchased in Pensilvania cause of Indian Hostilities there. see examination of a woman taken Prisoner by Indians taken before S^r. W^m. Johnson also Examinations of John Morris taken before Sir W^m. 27 Aug^t. 1757.

Vide Records fol. 6. pag 136.

Teduiscung's various & warm complaints of undue purchases. at Easton last Treaty

M^R. WILLIAM CORRY TO SIR W^M. JOHNSON.

As I find the Gov^r courts your Friendship and offers a new Commission for Justices, and a Commission for the Court of common pleas. which I little expected in the present State of Affairs our Domine and I beg you will make the best use of it. Name who you please for Justices and the Mayor and I will fill up the list in those places where you are not acquainted—and Send it to you, and if you approve of them the list can go down. M^r. Oglevi Spoke to M^r. Bannier about the Sheriff &^c, he told him if others better liked could be found the Gov^r was very willing to change them—

I therefore make no doubt but you can now get us a Sheriff—this is the first grand point. Mr William Rogers Jun^r is the fitest man, our Domine thinks So too, the Mayor begs the present may be out.

For the Court of Common pleas	Assistants
John Depeister first Judge	Jacob Ten Eike
Sibrant. G. van Schaack 2 Judge	Volkert. P. Dow
Jacob. C. Ten Eike 3 Judge	John. G. Rosaboom

If you approve of them—

I forwarded the Mayors and Cap^t Wraxals letters yesterday Poor S^r Peter has got a bile, he is hopping about, designs to see you as soon as he is able to travel.

Gen^l. Abercrombie is said to be our Gov^r. soon.

it is spoke on the Street that another French Fleet is arrived at

Lewisburgh—Bad News—not yet certain that our fleet is Sailed.

I Send you a few names for Justices which please to appoint.

Albany August 25th 1757 Sir your most humble Servt.

WILLIAM CORRY

Endorsed

From Wm Corry 25. Aug. 1757.

SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON TO LT. GOVR. DELANCEY.

Albany 4th October 1757.

SIR

I have just received an acctt by a Seneka Indian whom I sent some time ago to that Country to bring me intelligence, that a number of their warriors were set out upon a design to join with the Delewares or River Indians & to fall upon the southern Provinces, Minissinks & Esopus

I thought it proper to acquaint you herewith, but whether this piece of news is a fact to be depended on or not, is what I cannot take upon me to determine, as many such kind of reports have come from Indians, which have not turned out to be true; however I do not think something of the kind to be improbable.

I am Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant,

WM JOHNSON

To the Honrble James De Lancey, Esqr.

LETTER FROM THE ONOHAGHGUAGE SACHEMS TO SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON.

Onohaghguage October the 5th 1757.

BROTHER

These are to inform you that about three days agoe we had news of a Company of about 30 men being at Cheningo, going to war against Our Bretheren the English, We immediately sent two of our men to stop them, but in spight of all that we & our Brethern the Nanticokes could do, they marched along until we met them a second time, where after a long Council they all

turned back but nine, who were all Cayugas who are now gone along but to what place they are designed we know not, 'tis two days now since they passed by, they say they had thoughts of goint to Esopus, but did not certainly know, untill they met at a place on Delaware River, about 20 miles from hence where we suppose a number of Delawares will join them, Now we beg of you to be strong Brother, and not keep this news private, but to give notice to all the Towns round about there; for it is certainly true, for we saw them with our own Eyes, they also inform us that there is another great company not far from Tiaogo comeing the same way, mixt with French and will be here in a few Days, now we being all together, send you Our Loves and Service hopeing they will find you well and in peace as we are at present.

in great haste from your Bretheren

The Chiefs of Onokaghguage

EXTRACT OF COLL. A. HAASBROOK'S LETTER TO LT. GOV. DELANCEY, DATED 14 OCT^{R}. 1757.

"This serves to acquaint you that on 12 instant about ten o'Clock in the morning the Indians attacked the house of Peter Jan who lived on the south Western part of Rochester. The enemy burnt his house, killed one of his daughters & two men of the Regiment posted here as scouts. Another Ranger made a good defence, used all the arms in the house which were charged, beat the Enemy off, brought off Jan's wife & two daughters to Cap^{t}. Broadheads living a mile off. Jan & two sons were in the field. Next night most of Reg^{t}. marched but could discover nothing. desires their case to be taken into consideration."

MISS MILLER TO CAPT WRAXALL.

Sir

I have once and again Spoke to the waggoners to take up M^{r}. Wells^{s} chest but they say there orders from M^{r} Van Eps^{s}, to take nothing but corn until that is all up, they sometimes ride but one

load a week. I hear they are imploid by the Merchants of Schenectady which I am not Surprised at, as ware it there one father in stead of Sr. William and they to git Sixpence more they would searve him the same way.

I was a going to tell you a peace of news, but that I think I ought first to apoligize for my turning politician, which in petecoats I know you Detest—first then I never make it my business to inquire about news but unless I would stop my ears I could not help hearing this as every one talks of it, Secondly did not all think it tru I would not write it you—yesterday an Express arrived from boston who informs of our troops landing safe at Capretoun [Cape Breton] and having taken two of thear strongest batereys with a great many &cs. too tedius to mention—I send you a small Bundle which I think will be very Exeptable as it comes I belive from Mrs Wraxall—Mama & Mrs Willson with me begs our complemts. may be Exeptable to you, and the family.

I am Sr yr very Humble Servt.

Albany July ye 6, 1758 JENNET MILLER

To Capt. Peter Wraxal at Fort Johnson.

Since I cloes the letter I got a waggon to take Mr Wells Chest.

SPEECH OF A CHEROKEE AMBASSADOR TO SIR WM JOHNSON.

Fort Johnson 21st July 1758

At a Meeting of the Cherokee Messengers from the Tsyody, and Rocky Mountains.—

PRESENT &c

The Cherokee spoke to the Belt of Wampum addressing himself to Sr Wm and the Belt of Wamp Spoke it out in his own Language.

BROR We have received your Messages sent by some of our People who have been with you last Fall, and taken to heart everything you declare to us thereby wth great Joy and Satisfaction, and we assure you that we will take your Advice and do agreeable to your Desire in every Respect you desire us—Gave 2 Strings.

Bro^R Before we left home We had some Reports in our Towns that you likewise were at War w^th the french, wherefore we took a Resolution to go and find out the Truth of it, and took w^th us an old ax most out of Use w^ch nevertheless proved so good as to destroy two of the Enemy. After which the Messages from you reached us and your War Hatchet was delivered to us in your Name w^ch we immediately received & took up w^th the utmost Readiness, and found it proved to be a sharp one as we immediately killed two others w^th it at Ohio, one of the Scalps we thought proper to give to the Tsyody Nation, and the other to the Gen^l who is going to Ohio; We then intended to proceed w^th 800 of our Nation to you in Order to join His Maj^s Forces this way, but as we understood that an army was likewise ordered by our Father the King of England to Ohio ag^st the French, we listened to the propositions and persuasions made Us by the English General that way and joined him with the 800 men, as we thought it equally Service done to our Father the King and we hope you will not take it amiss. 6 Strings of black Wamp^m

Bro^R We have maturely considered your Advice of having the Road between Us clear and open, And we assure you Brother that we have cleared the Road to you so that we can constantly See you and nothing may be brought in it by our Enemy to obstruct our mutual concurrence, and you may depend upon we will keep it open on our side & hope you will do the same on yours so that mutual Friendship & good understanding may forever continue; The Kohy Nation are next to you and the Tsyody the furthermost as you will see by this Belt of Wampum, We have likewise thought proper that such Warriors as may come our Road have a Mark of Distinction from the Enemy, and we fixed upon a bunch of Feathers to be fastened to the Muzzle of their guns, and as they go along the Road to cut a Cross here and there in the Trees, that we may know whether Friend or Foe passt along. Gave a White Belt with one Black Row of wamp^m in it signifying the Road & 3 figures of men signifying S^r W^m Johnson & the Kophy & Tsyody nations.

Bro^R As the Road is now clear between us, we hope you will make the proper Use of it, that whenever you have any news of Importance & Consequence that you will not fail to acquaint us therewith without Delay, as you white People have a convenient & quick way to send News on horseback. We assure you Bro^r we will strictly observe the same and give you Intelligence of everything we think worth commmnicating to you w^ch will give us an opportunity that if either of us is hurted by our Enemy we may know of it and wash his wounds. 2 Strings Wamp^m.

Bro^R As our Resolutions and Minds are now settled according to our Declarations we have made to you we hope you and the 6 Nations to do the same and be of one mind in the present war, and stand together then your Enemies wont gain any advantage of you. 4 Strings

Bro^R & the 2 Castles of y^e Moh^s & y^e rest of the Confederacy

As at this present troublesome time we are not sure what our Fate may be, one Day the Sun may shine clear upon us, another Day may be Cloudy and dark. Nevetheless Bretheren let us strongly keep up our mutual Friendship & Agreements we made between us, that if any Tempest should break out upon us, we may after it is passt come together and renew the Covenant now Mutually agreed upon, and reap the Benefits thereof.

4 Strings

The following is a speech of exhortation from the Cherokee Women to the Women of the 6 Nations.

Sisters, As it is our Department to furnish y^e Warriors w^th provisions whenever they go upon any Exploit, it being our Duty to do so they being our children & brought forth by us We earnestly desire & request of you that you will take good Care of them your way, as we shall do here so as to fitt them out w^th such necessaries as Warriors stand in need of so that they man'nt want when they are upon their march, and when you expect them home again you will have such victuals &^c ready for them as may refresh them after a fatiguing march.

Gave a Bunch of white Beads.

Bro^R: By this String of Wampum we acquaint you that we are desirous to know the Place where our Enemy the french lives in

order that we may tell our People of it when we return. Wherefore Bro^r. we are resolved after resting ourselves a few Days to rise and find out our Enemy. One black String.

Bro^R: We hereby present you with a Calumet and a Wing as the manager of the affairs of our Confederacy, and beg you will keep it in Remembrance of our nation, at this place of public Consultations of the Confederacy, Light the Pipe whenever you meet upon public affairs, and dont let any people y^t carry false & trifling Reports Smoke out of it. Any time hereafter if we should come to your Fire Place upon Business we hope to find this Calumet and Wing, in order that we may light it and remember the agreement now made between each other.

SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON TO COMMISSARY LEAKE.

Fort Johnson 2^d Feby 1759.

Sir,

I was this day favoured with yours, I am extremely obliged to you for the books you were so kind to send me, and shall as soon as I have read them, return them safe. I had only time to read a page or two, and find they are wrote with a great deal of spirit, & in an excellent stile.

We have no news in this quarter worth communicating, more than that the Indians tell us, the French are preparing for a Winter's expedition, as they think, against Fort Stanwix. The French have a Body of men about Swegatchy, provided as they say, with every thing necessary for such an attempt.

I have a letter from y^e Friend Croghan dated at Raystown y^e 21^st Deceb^r, He has been in the severall Ind^n Towns about Fort Du Quesne, and says he was very kindly received by all the Delawares, who, by their speeches to Him in their Towns, & to Coll^e. Boquet at Pitsborough seems to have entirely abandoned the French and promise to drive them from the other little Forts in that part of the Country, also to return what English Prisoners they have among them.

I have invited the Six Nations to a Generall Meets at my House, where, I am in hopes I shall be able to bring them more heartily into our Interest than they have hitherto been. I fear I shall be

distressed for y^e^ want of Pork, unless you could inform me where there is any to be sold, which I should be much oblidgd to you for. I am with sincere regard

Sir,

Your very Humble Servant

Rob^t^ Leake Esq. Wm. Johnson.

FROM WILLIAM KELLY.

Feb'y 16, 1759.

Sir

My last to you was of Cap^t^ Waxall I have now only the news of the packett (which arrived yesterday) to Communicate for which youve Inclosed an Extraordinary paper published on the occasion a sloop Just arrived brings an acco^t^ that the Fleets of Transports destined (as is supposed) ag^st^ Martinique are arrived at Barbadoes I am with due respect S^r^

Your most obe'd & hble serv,

N. York Feb^ry^ 16^th^ 1759 William Kelly.

ORDER REFERRING BENJ^N^. FRANKLIN'S PETITION TO THE BOARD OF TRADE.

At the Council Chamber Whitehall
the 12^th^ of April 1759.

By the Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Council for Plantation Affairs.

His Majesty having been pleased by His Order in Council of the 2^d^ of February last, to referr unto this Committee the humble Petition of Benjamin Franklin Esq^r^ Agent appointed by the Assembly of Pennsylvania, relating to the Differences subsisting between His Majesty's Subjects and the Indians bordering upon the said Province about large Quantities of Land which the said Indians alledge they have been deprived of, without their Consent, or Satisfaction made them for the same, particularly of the Lands which are included within the Forks of the River Delawarr, and also of other Lands on both Sides the said River—The Lords of

the Committee this day took the same into their Consideration, and are hereby pleased to referr the said Petition (a Copy whereof is hereunto annexed) to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, to examine into the same, and Report their Opinion thereupon to this Committee. (signd)

W. SHARPE

PETITION OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

To the Kings most Excell[t] Majesty in Council

The humble Petition of Benjamin Franklin Esq[r] Agent appointed by the Assembly of Pensylvania.

SHEWETH,—That the Indians who were formerly possessed of the Lands, which form the extensive Countries, now enjoyed by Your Majesty's Subjects in North America, having been found willing for small Considerations to cede amicably large Tracts of those Lands to Your Majesty, Your Royal Predecessors and the Proprietary Grants under the Crown, it has always been thought good Policy to make Purchases thereof, from time to time, as the British Settlements have been extended, and the Indians at the same time, retiring further back into the Country, have formed a kind of Frontier, where, while they continue upon Terms of Friendship, Trade, profitable to this Nation, is carried on with them by exchanging British Manufactures for their Peltry, they contribute to the Prosperity of the British Settlements in time of Peace, and are the Chief and best protection of them from the Inroads of Enemies in time of Warr.

But if they entertain any Suspicion, that they have been deprived of their Lands without their Consent, and that no Consideration has been paid for them, or that any Fraude or Deceit hath been practiced towards them therein, they usually conceal their Discontent until an Opportunity Offers of revenging themselves, and then, especially if excited by an Enemy, commit the most outragious Acts of Violence, by Small Parties, who Plunder and Murder without regard to Condition, Age or Sex, and always fly before a Superior Force, to Places where their Knowledge of the Country renders it almost impossible to discover and reduce them

That as the Calamities of a War, thus carried on, are not easily prevented it is almost equally difficult to put a Stop to them by Treaty; These Natives being unwilling to disclose the Cause of their Resentment, till they have attained what they deem sufficient Vengeance for the Supposed Injury; and when the Secret is drawn from them, and Peace is made by a Satisfaction promised, the delay of that Satisfaction is frequently the Cause of their renewing without Warning, the same Ravages.

That the Delawar Indians and other Neighbouring Nations, having for some time carried on a cruel War against Your Majesty's Subjects in North America, and having spread Desolation and Terror through Your Majesty's Provinces of Virginia, Maryland, Pensylvania, and New Jersey, and thereby unpeopled a great Part of those Countries, a Treaty was at length set on foot for putting an End to these Devastations, during the Course of which Treaty, several Conferences were held between George Croghan Esquire the Deputy Agent of Sir William Johnson Bar^{t} (whom Your Majesty had been pleased to appoint Sole Agent for Indian Affairs within the District of these Provinces) and William Denny Esq^{r} Lieu^{t} Governor of Pennsylvania on the behalf of Thomas and Richard Penn, the Proprietaries; and also on behalf of the said Province, and Teedyuscung Chief of all the Delawar, and many other confederated Indian Nations, who had been properly empowered by them to make their Demands, and conclude a Peace.

That at some of their Conferences, particularly at one holden at Easton in Pensylvania the 13th of November 1756, Teedyuscung complained, that the Indians had been unjustly dispossed and defrauded of large Quantitys of Land by Your Majesty's Subjects, particularly of the Lands which are included within the Forks of the River Delawar, and also of other Lands on both Side the said River.

That at another Conference holden at Easton in July 1757, Teedyuscung having earnestly desired that all Differences between the Indians and Your Majesty's Subjects might be referred to Your Majesty's Royal Determination, and that the same might be publish'd throughout all your Majesty's Provinces, It was finally agreed (amongst other things) by the said George Croghan; The

said Lieut. Governor, and Teedyuscung, That all the Purchase Deeds and Writings by which the said Thomas and Richard Penn their Ancestors, or the Grantees of their Ancestors, now hold any Lands within the back Parts of the Province of Pensylvania, should be examined and Copies thereof laid before Your Majesty for Your Royal Decision, of the Bounds and Limits between the Lands heretofore bought of the Indians, and those yet unpurchased.

That Your Petitioner, As agent appointed by the Assembly of the Provinces of Pensylvania (in which as well as in Your Majestys adjacent Provinces, the Lives and Properties of many Thousands of Your Majesty's Subjects will be in the utmost Danger, should the Hostilities of the Indians be renewed) begs Leave humbly to represent the Premises to Your Majesty and Prays

That Your Majesty would be pleased to take the Premises into Your Royal Consideration, and to do therein, as to Your Majesty in Your great Wisdom shall seem meet.

And Your Petitioner shall ever pray &c^a. (signd)

B. Franklin

REPORT ON THE PRECEDING PETITION.

To the Right Hon^ble. the Lords of the Committee of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council for Plantation Affairs.

My Lords,

Pursuant to your Lordships Order dated the 12^th. of April last, we have taken into consideration the humble Petition of Benjamin Franklin Esq^r. Agent appointed by the Assembly of Pennsylvania, relating to the Differences subsisting between His Majesty's Subjects and the Indians bordering upon the said Province, concerning large Quantities of Land, which the said Indians allege they have been deprived of without their Consent, or Satisfaction made them, for the same, particularly of the Lands which are included within the Forks of the River Delawar, and also of other lands on both sides the said River; And having been attended by the Petitioner, and also by the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania, and heard what each

Party had to offer upon the Occasion, We beg leave to acquaint your Lordships.

That it appears from many Letters and Authentick Papers in the Books of Our Office, that the extensive Purchases of Land made not only by the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania, but in other Governments bordering on the Indian Country, have long since occasioned Disgusts and Suspicions of Injury in the minds of the Indians; And that these Jealousies have been one principal Cause of their Defection from the British Interest, and of the Hostilities which they have committed on the Frontiers of His Majesty's Provinces.

S^r^. William Johnson His Majesty's Agent for Indian Affairs in the Northern District of North America, has in many of his Letters declared himself of this Opinion in general, And in a Letter to Us of the 10^th^. of September 1756, he acquaints Us, that he has the greatest Reason to believe, that the Hostilities, which Pennsylvania in particular had suffer'd from the Indians living on the Susquehanna, had in great Measure arisen from the large Purchase made by that Government in 1754, at which, tho' publickly consented to and fairly paid for at Albany, some of the Six Nations appeared to be disgusted, and others to repent of their having consented to it.

This information We thought it Our Duty immediately to communicate to the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania, who having, in their answer thereto, made a Proposal to appoint Commissioners to treat with the Indians in Concert with S^r^. William Johnson, upon all Points relative to these Affairs, and to hear & determine any Complaints which might be made by any Indians who had committed Hostilities on the Frontiers of that Province; We transmitted the said Answer and Proposals to S^r^. William Johnson directing him to take such measures as should be most expedient for carrying the said Proposal into execution.

Accordingly it appears, that in July and August, 1757, M^r^. George Croghan being deputed by S^r^. William Johnson for that purpose, did in Conjunction with M^r^. Denny (the Proprietaries Deputy Governor) and certain Commiss^rs^, chosen out of, and appointed by the Assembly, hold a Treaty with Teedyuscung Chief of the Delawar Indians the Complainant mentioned in M^r^. Franklin's Petition.

From what passed at the opening of these conferences it might reasonably have been hoped, that all matters in dispute with the Delawar Indians, whose Hostilities had so long vexed the Middle Colonies, would have been happily and Speedily adjusted Teedyuscung their Chief declared himself well pleased with the appointment of Mr. Croghan to hear his Complaints, and willing to submit them to his Decision. But upon his desiring that the Deeds by which the Proprietaries hold the Lands, might be produced, read in Publick and examined, that it might be known from what Indians they had bought the Lands, and what was the real Extent of the Purchase, it appears that Mr. Denny, who in the beginning had told Teedyuscung, that Mr. Croghan was expressly appointed by Sr. William Johnson to hear and enquire into the Grievances he might have to complain of now said that Sr. William Johnson was the Person appointed to hear the Particulars of his Charge and the Proprietaries Defence; that Mr. Croghan had informed him that he had no Power to suffer any Alteration upon the Complaint; that it must be referrd to Sr. William Johnson by whom alone the matter could be heard.

This Declaration put an End to all further Proceeding towards an Enquiry into the matter in dispute, Teedyuscung refused to go to Sr. William Johnson for many Reasons, but principally because some of the Indian Nations were there, who had been instrumental to the misunderstanding in selling the Lands in Question. The Deeds however were produced; and Teedyuscung then proposed to Mr. Denny, that Copies of them should be sent to Sr. William Johnson to be by him laid before His Majesty, and caused his own Clerk to send Copies of them to the Speaker of the Assembly of Pensylvania requesting that would look into the Matter and transmit Copies to His Majesty by his Ministers.

Sr. William Johnson in the Letter with which he transmitted to us Copies of the Conferences held at this Treaty observes, that as Teedyuscung had refused his Mediation and made Choice of the Quakers for his Advocates and Agents he had not thought it adviseable to press his mediation upon these Indians any further. But he complains of the extraordinary Conduct of the Assembly in appointing Members of their own House to interfere, as Provin-

cial Commissioners, in Indian Treaties; in providing and giving Presents as from their own Body, distinct from those given by the Governor; and in procuring by Management their Speaker and themselves to be appointed Agents, to sollicit Indian Complaints before His Majesty and his Ministers.

At a Treaty in October 1758, between the Government of Pennsylvania and the Delawars and thirteen other different Nations of Indians, Teedyuscung makes a farther declaration concerning the purchases complain'd of by the Delawars; but this matter does not appear to have been much agitated at that treaty, the principal object and result of which was the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania relinquishing to the Six Nations that part of Lands purchased at Albany in 1754, which lyes to the Westward of the Mountains, and We cannot without injustice to the Proprietaries omit acquainting your Lordships, that full satisfaction was given by them to the Indians, with respect to this purchase which had been the cause of great disgust and discontent.

Having thus Stated to your Lordships such facts as appeared to Us to be necessary for enabling you to form an opinion of the matter in judgment before You, We must beg leave to Observe, that it is impossible to reflect, tho' but for a moment upon the unparralell'd distresses which have been suffered by His Majesty's Subjects in the back Settlements of the middle Colonies, from the cruel Hostilities and devastations of the Delawar and other Indians, without seeing the necessity there is of Steadily pursuing every measure, which may have a tendency to redress and remove those Grievances and complaints, which are alledged to have been the principal cause of such Hostilities; it was with this Idea and for this purpose, that We referred it in 1757, to Sir William Johnson to examine into the Grievances complained of by the Delawar Indians; and in pursuing this Method, We followed what we conceived to have been the view and Object of Government in appointing this Gentleman Sole Agent for Indian Affairs, who might manage and direct our concerns with them upon one uniform Plan, and thereby put a stop to the mischiefs so long complained of, arising from the irregular and unwarrantable interferings of particular provinces, and in many instances of particular persons.

The part, which some Members of the Assembly of Pennsylvania appear to have had in the transactions with the Indians in July and August 1757, does, in our opinion, seem to be of this kind, and to have been one principal cause of the failure of those measures which were taken to examine into and redress the Complaints of the Indians at this meeting, Jealousys and suspicions appear to have been raised and excited in the minds of the Indians, and in lieu of that examination and redress, which might have been expected from the disposition that appeared in all parties at the opening of the Conferences, no one essential point was settled, and the whole result of the Treaty was a proposition made and assented to, that the deeds and writings concerning the Lands should be transmitted to Great Britain to be laid before His Majesty for his determination.

It is difficult to conceive what Idea the Indians (unacquainted as they are with the forms of business,) might have of the efficacy and propriety of this proposition, But it is impossible, that either the Deputy Governor or the members of the Assembly, who assisted at the Conferences should not know, that the proposition of sending over the Deeds was irregular as the Examination of and decision upon them here was impracticable.

The circumstances of fraud suggested by the Indians are, that in some cases the Lands were purchased by Persons who had no right to sell; and in other cases, that greater quantitys of Land had been surveyed and taken up than was expressed in the Deeds, which are circumstances that can only be judged of upon the spot, and by those who are well acquainted with the persons and claims of different Indians; and it is as impossible in the nature of things, as it would be irregular in the course of business for the Crown to judge of a matter of this kind in the first instance, and before a regular examination, and report, in consequence of such examination, had been made by the proper officer.

The Members of the Assembly, who were present at the Treaty, seem clearly to have understood the matter in this light; for altho' they accepted the proposition from Teedyuscung and actually received from him the Treaty and deeds annexed, in order to be by them transmitted to be laid before His Majesty, yet they

never thought proper to transmit them, nor to interpose their mediation, untill the application now before Your Lordships.

This being the State of the Case, We would humbly propose to Your Lordships, that further and more express orders should be sent to His Majesty's Agent for Indian affairs to examine into the complaints of the Delawar Indians with respect to Lands, which they allege they have been defrauded of by the Proprietaries; and that for this purpose he should take the earliest opportunity of signifying to them, that he has, in consequence of what pass'd at the Conferences in July & August 1757, received His Majesty's orders to inquire into these Grievances, and press them to appoint such time and place as shall be most convenient to them for that purpose. That he be directed to give timely notice of such meeting to the Commiss^rs. appointed by the Proprietaries to act on their part, to the end they may come properly Instructed and prepared to support the claims of their constituents; and that when he shall have made a full and particular enquiry into the Circumstances of the case, and heard what all parties may have to offer, he do transmit his proceedings in this business to be laid before His Majesty, together with his opinion of what may be proper to be done thereupon.

Having stated to your Lordships the several facts respecting the particular case referred to Our Consideration, together with our opinion upon the whole, it is necessary for Us, before We close our report, to take this opportunity of Observing to your Lordships, that the frauds and abuses, with respect to purchases and Settlements of Indian Lands properly so call'd and the fatal effects of such abuses are not confined to the Province of Pennsylvania, nor to this particular Tribe of Indians; they have been as much practiced, complain'd of, and almost as severely felt in every other Province, and extend to almost every Tribe of Indians with whom We have an intercourse, and tho' other Nations may not have taken up the hatchet against us, as the Delawars have done, yet they have not afforded us any effectual assistance in the War, in which We are engaged; their Conduct in general has been at best doubtfull & equivocal and they have been more or less our Friends, as the Chances of War have been more or less in our favour.

It is not to be wondered, that the Indians are tender and jealous, in a matter which so essentially concerns their Interest, nay, their very existence; Whilst Our Settlements were confined to the Sea Coast and those of the French to the lower parts of the River S^t^ Lawrence, the Indians entertained little Jealousy and did not consider Us in the light of invaders; their hunting Grounds lay higher up in the interior parts of the Country, and they not only acquiesced in Our Settlements, but encouraged them from the advantages they derived from them, in the supply of many wants which our connections with them had introduced, But no sooner had the prodigious increase of Our people obliged Us, and the discoverys made of the richness and fertility of the interior parts of the Country encouraged Us, to extend Our settlements, and that individuals were, from the want of a proper plan for ascertaining the mode of acquiring property, left at Liberty to practice every fraud and abuse in the Obtaining excessive tracts of Lands from the Indians, then they at once felt the embarrasment, and grew Jealous of the Consequence of such a conduct.

In this Situation therefore the 5 Nations, who were at the head of a Confederacy of almost all the Northern Nations, and in whom all their interests were united, did in 1701, resolve upon a measure the most wise and prudent with regard to their own interests, and the most advantageous with regard to Ours, that could have been framed; they delineated upon paper in the most precise manner the Limits of what they called their hunting grounds, comprehending the great Lakes of Ontario and Erie, and all the circumjacent Lands for the distance of Sixty miles around them, The sole and absolute property of this Country they desired might be secured to them; and as a proof of perpetual Alliance, and to support Our Rights against any Claims which the French might make, founded on the vague and uncertain pretence of unlimited Grants or accidental local discovery, they declared themselves willing to yield to Great Britain, the Sovereignty and absolute dominion of it, to be secured and protected by Forts to be erected whenever it should be thought proper.

A Treaty was accordingly entred into and concluded upon these terms by M^r^ Nanfan then Lieu^t^ Governor of New York; and a Deed

of surrender of the Lands, expressing the Terms and Conditions, executed by the Indians.

The advantages of such a concession on the part of the Indians were greater than our most sanguine hopes could have expected; and had the Judgment Zeal and Integrity of those, whose Duty it was faithfully to execute the Conditions of the Engagement, been equal to those of him who made it, the Indians might have been forever secured in Our Interest and all disputes with France about American Territory prevented; but by neglect of Government on one hand, and the enormous abuses of Individuals in the purchase of Lands on the other hand, all the solid advantages of this Treaty and concession were lost, and with them the memory even of the Transaction itself; The Indians were disobliged and disgusted, and many of them joined with the Enemy in the War which followed this Treaty, and disturbed our Settlements, whilst the French, to whom this Transaction pointed out what their plan should be, took every measure to get possession of the Country by Forts and Military Establishments; and altho' they were compelled at the Treaty of Utrecht to acknowledge in express terms our Sovereignty over the Six Nations, yet finding We took no Steps to avail Ourselves of such a favourable declaration either by a renewal of Our Engagement with the Indians, or taking measures to support Our sovereignty by forts erected in proper parts of the Country, they ceased not to pursue that Plan, in which they had already made so considerable a progress, and it was not 'till the year 1725, when they had by their Establishment at Niagara, secured to themselves the possession of Lake Ontario, that We saw too late our Error in neglecting the advantages which might have been derived from the Treaty of 1701.

M^r. Burnet, who was then Governor of New York, applied himself however with great assiduity to recover the Interests and Affections of the Indians, as the only means of defeating the designs of the French, and such was the force of their inclination to live well with Us, and to renew the Antient covenant chain, as they express it, that they consented, Notwithstanding all the ill treatment they had suffered from Us, to enter into the same engagement as they had entred into in 1701, and a Treaty was accordingly

concluded upon the same terms and a new Deed, reciting the former executed by them.

The Experience We had had of the mischiefs, which followed from a want of a proper regard and attention to our engagement in 1701, increased by the danger which now threatned Our Colonies from the daily and enormous encroachments of the French, ought to have been a Lesson to Us to have been now more carefull of Our Interests but Yet the same avidity after Possession of Indian Lands, aggravated by many other Abuses, still remain'd unchecked and uncontroll'd by any permanent Plan; no measures were taken to erect Forts in proper places, to secure the sovereignity of the Country, and to protect it against the attempts of Our Enemies, and it is to the same causes producing the same Effects, that We are now to impute, not only the present unsettled and declining State of Our Interests with the Indians, but also those disputes with France concerning Limits and Territory which have involved Us in a most dangerous and critical War.

By the success of His Majesty's Arms in the late expedition against Fort du quesne, a great and valuable part of the Country included in the Deeds of 1701, and 1726, have been recovered to the Dominion of the Crown of Great Britain, As no circumstances relative to this event, and the negotiations with the Indians in consequence of it, have been communicated to Us; We cannot take upon Us to say what measures it may be proper to pursue to secure the Dominion of this part of His Majesty's territories and fix the Indians in Our Interest; but We have thought it proper to trouble your Lordships with this narrative of Facts, in Order to shew, how dangerous it may be to make Grants and Settlements of Indian Lands wch have been ceded for Protection and not Settlement, especially when all the Political advantages of such Cession may be Obtained without such Settlement.

We are My Lords Your Lordships

Whitehall
June 1 1759

Most Obed. and most humble Servts

Sign'd,

Dunk Halifax.
James Oswald.
Soame Jenyns.
Wm. Sloper.

SIR Wᴹ. JOHNSON TO THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Fort Johnson, May 17th 1759.

My Lords

Herewith I transmit your Lordships a Copy of the Proceedings of a Congress I lately held with the Six Nations & four other Nations of Indians.

From the Declarations & Engagements of the Indians which your Lordships may observe in the Said Proceedings—from private conferences I had with their leading men, and from a variety of other concurring circumstances, I think I may with great truth give it to your Lordships as my opinion, that not only from the commencement of the present War, but for many years past, His Majestys Indian Interests in this Quarter, hath not wore so favourable a Face nor given such encouraging Prospects. If the operations of His Majestys Arms in these parts, are carried on with Spirit & wear a respectable appearance on the opening of the approaching Campaigne, I persuade myself the conduct of these Indians will be conformable to the Promises they have made, and that they will convince the World by their actions they can be of very considerable Service to the Success of His Majestys Arms.

If an attempt upon Niagara thro Lake Ontario should be a part of the Plan of Operations for this year, and that our Preparations for it, are projected with judgment & carried on with Vigour, I am persuaded I could join His Majestys Troops that way, with the main Body of the Warriors of the 5 Nations together with many others of their Allies & Dependants, and that by taking proper measures, I could not only prevail on those Indians of the 5 Nations, who have been debauched by the French from their respective Settlements to go & live under their Protection at La Galette on the River St. Lawrence, to abandon the French interest & return to their native Towns; but that I could also prevent many if not most of those Northern & Western Indians who form the Ottoway Confederacy from joining the French against us, & which they have hitherto done. Nay I flatter myself I could prevail on many of the aforesaid Indians to join with us in our operations from Lake Ontario, the Six Nations in general & the

Chenossio Indians in particular (who are a brave & powerful Tribe of the Seneca Nation & live near Niagara) are as your Lordships may see by the Proceedings I now send you, very desirous of driving the French from Niagara & equaly pressing that we should undertake it. I have given General Amherst Intelligence hereof & wrote him on this subject, nearly in substance what I have now had the honour to mention to your Lorships.

My Lords

I beg your Patience whilst I pursue this subject a little further. The Reduction of Niagara, and if well conducted I think we cannot fail of success, will be in the light I view it, a point of inestimable advantage to the security & welfare of this His Majestys Dominions, and if the conquest is rightly improved, will throw such an extensive Indian Trade & Interest, for they are inseperable, into our hands, as will in my humble opinion, overset all those ambitious and Lucrative schemes w^{ch} the French have projected & in the pursuit of which they were interupted by the present War in this part of the world.

Whilst the French are in possession of Niagara in vain will our repossession of Oswego & reestablishing an Indian Trade there, enable us to hold the Ballance from them in Indian Interest or Trade. The many nations of Westward Indians, in comparison with whom, the 6 Nations are but a handful, might pass by Niagara in order to come to Oswego, where the French stop them & their goods, secure them by negotiation & engross their Trade. this we felt for some years before the war began when very few of those Indians came to trade with us to Oswego, and latterly the chief Trade there was rather carried on with the French than Indians, by which means our Enemies procured assortments & supplies of Goods from us to support their Trade at & from Niagara.

The advantage of the Indian Trade in general to the commerce & manufactures of our Mother Country, I need not enlarge upon to your Lordships, you know it is carried on wholly with the manufactures of our own Country, and that the produce of it, except the necessary consumption here, is all exported to England.

This may possibly be the last letter I may have the honour to write to your Lordships Board. I would therefore wish to make it as worthy of your attention as I can. I hope your Lordships will for that reason bear with me if I make it a long one, tho I will endeavour to be as concise as the apprehended Importance of my subject will permit.

My Lords, whether the actual extirpation of the French from North America will be effected by His Majesties Arms, before he thinks proper to lay them down, is a point which I do as I ought leave in respectful silence.

But I beg leave to offer it as my opinion to your Lordships that should the French be absolutely extirpated & much more if they should not, the Improvement & extension of His Majestys Indian Interest & the Trade consequent thereupon, are objects of the last moment to the Security & welfare of His American Dominions, and how intimately these are connected with the strength, wealth & Influence of Great Britain, Your Lordships are competent Judges.

An Equitable an Open & a well regulated Trade with the Indians, is and ever will be, the most natural & the most efficacious means to improve & extend His Majestys Indian Interest.

All manner of Trade with the Subjects of France in these parts ought to be prohibited under the Severest Penalties.

The Indians ought to be redressed or satisfied, in all their reasonable & well founded complaints of enormous & unrighteously obtained Patents for their Lands and Treaties of Limitations with the respective Provinces agreed upon & religiously observed, with regard to the Bounds of our Settlements towards the Indian Country; in this the Province of Pensilvania & New Jersey lately very wisely & politicly set an Example.

Missionarys of approved Character, abilities & Zeal, with due encouragement, would be of unspeakable advantage to promote our Interests amongst the Indians, & subvert that of the French, whose Industry in this Article has been of infinite Service to them.

A handsome encouragement for Interpreters of Capacity & Education, is extreamly wanted. There are at present none in any tolerable degree qualified for this important employment.

The Superintendency & Direction of Indian Affairs & Trade, to be under an Authority from the Crown. Whether this should be invested in One Man or in Commissions to several in those Provinces which from their sittuation are & always will be more immediately connected with the Indian Regulations & Trade, is submitted to his Majestys Wisdom & Pleasure ;—but I beg leave to suggest to Your Lordships, that the management herein on the part of the Crown, upon the system I am pointing out, will in my opinion be to great a weight & of too diffusive a nature for any one Person duly to inspect & preside over.

Whilst we have Rivals in the Trade, I conceive it ought to be exonnerated from all those Duties or Imposts which may enable those Rivals to undersel us. And therefore a sufficient Fund should be appropriated for supporting the Indian Establishment on the part of the Crown, not to arise from that Trade, until at least it is fixed on a sure & solid Foundation.

Whilst I am upon this subject, I must beg leave to mention my own management to your Lordships in the Character I have & am still acting in under His Majesty.

That tho very considerable sums have been expended in the Indian service, I have & I shall act with all the ecconomy & frugality, w^{ch} prudence & the Circumstances of affairs admit; if I have failed herein, it has been rather on the saving side, & if the assistance His Majestys arms have received from the Indians, has not answered Expectation or been adequate to the Expences, I must take the Liberty to say, it has in a great measure been owing to the ill success of our military operations this way, hence tho the Indians of the Six Nations amongst whom the moneys which have past through my hands have been chiefly confined, have not seconded our Enterprizes so universaly as they might have done, yet numbers of them have every Campaign joined His Majestys Troops & some or other of them been constantly upon service, however had the Expence, which hath already accrued, served only to prevent the Six Nations as a Body from going over to the French & acting with them against us, which I am vain enough to think I have had some share in preventing, the moneys laid out have not been uselessly expended.

To conclude, I am persuaded (from what passed at this Treaty & ye knowledge I have of these sort of People) to have great confidence in their behaviour this Campaign.

I fear I have trespassed to much on your Lordships Patience, which I hope you will pardon as my motive is the good of the service. & your Lordships may be assured that there shall be nothing wanting in me either in precept or example to urge them to the utmost. I have the honour to be &c.

Wm. Johnson

To the Right Honourable
The Lords Commissioners
of Trade & Plantations.

Endorsed

Coppy of my Letter
to the Board of Trade
17th May 1759.
recommending some steps to be taken
for promotg the Indn Interest.

CAPT WRAXALL TO SIR Wm. JOHNSON.

New York 23 May 1759

My Dear Sir

I wrote you a few Lines last week by Sergt Ibbit, in a great hurry and in great pain; my Boil is since better and I am able to hobble about, but the pain and want of sleep has lowered my health.

Two or three days ago Mr. Kelley sent me your favor of the 3 May with P. S. of the 6th

When I left you I thought there appeared little hopes of Mss. Katys Life. I condole with you thereupon & I hope Miss Nancys magagement of your House will supply the Loss you have sustained.

Mr Wade's Brother from Philadelphia dined with me yesterday. he tells me your son is in good Health that the masters of the Acadamy give a very good Character of his Progress in Learning. I find he is yet backward in writing & Ciphering as he has not

hitherto been much put to it: in my opinion it is full time he should & it is too important a part of Education to be delayed, also Merch^ts accounts which are necessary to every Gentleman for the regulation of his own private affairs. he gives me a good Character of his sobriety & virtuous Inclination & that he is constant at Church every Sunday.

he tells me M^r Croghan has left Philadelphia upon Indian affairs that your Letter to him by me fell into M^r Wades hands & w^ch he forwarded by an Express w^ch was going to M^r Croghan or where he was.

M^r Wade brought us certain accounts that Guadelope had capitulated & the remaining Inhabitants submitted to the King of Great Brittain to remain in the possession of their Estates & the free Exercise of their Religion.

That M^r Bompar the French admiral had escaped Commodore Moore's Fleet & was saild no body knew whither perhaps to make a push to get up the River S^t. Lawrence.

Paulus' alarm bears the companion of his own character, Drunkeness & Cowardice, & I think with you that M^r Pavy should have been more deliberate in propagating it.

I dont much regret my namesake Peters Death, for tho he was a fine stout & I believe a brave Fellow, he was so saucy & Quarrelsome that it tarnished his merit & obscured his services.

Most People here seem to think M^r Stanwix^s Command to the Westward will be attended with no great ecclat & that the Regulars under him would be more servicable your way. I suspect it so ordered from home & that the Ohio Faction are pushing a Plan for settling their Great Patent, but if this is pursued without the previous concurrence & liking of the Indians, I fear it will give them a general Disgust & Jealousy of us & be hereafter attended with ill consequences. I think if you have grounds for it & are of this opinion, you should not only mention it to the General but remonstrate against it to the Board of Trade in your Letter, which with the Proceedings I hope you are getting ready as I think it ought to go by the first Packet.

I am greatly Pleased Gen. Amherst behaved so politely to you & tho he has not done so by me, I yet have a good opinion of him

& wish you may harmonize together. let him pass the Rubicon & then we may fix his character.

I hear you were at Albany & hoped to have had a Letter from you, perhaps I may by the Post to night or to morrow Morning

We hear the Preparations & Troops are Moving to Lake Ontaric & that Bradstreet commands that way. I always wished you to Figure in that route as I think it will be in all respects be more agreeable & advantageous to Yr Character in Indian Affairs & I imagine you would be pretty sure of success against Niagara the conquest of which in its consequences would I believe be of more real Importance than what perhaps Mr Amherst may be able to compass. Should the French receive the succors they want, & it is not impossible they may, I dont think Campaign will answer the sanguine Expectations of the public & that the conquest of Niagara in such case, will greatly carry the Ballance of honour & advantage—

News we have none here. no European arrivals. My Wife joins me in our respectful & affecte Salutations to You My Compts to your Houshold & I am truly My Dear Sir

Your faithful & most
Obedt Servant
Peter Wraxall

CAPT. WRAXALL TO SIR Wm. JOHNSON.

New York, 8 June, 1759.

My Dear Sir William,

My last was the 23 May, since which I have your favour of the 20 Inst. I wrote you the 29. April a long Letter wch you have never mentioned the receipt of, as there were some things in it wch no one need see but your self I would not wish it to miscarry, therefore please to mention if you ever received it, I sent it by the Post. unless you have any particular reasons your way, your Letters will reach me safely & more speedily without being under cover to Mr. Kelly, he is often out of Town & I dont get em till two or three days sometimes after the Post comes in.

You dont mention, & therefore I suppose your Destination this

Campaign was not fixed when you wrote. It is said here you are to go up the Mohock River. My Brother in Law Capt. Smith from whom I have a very handsome Letter, writes me you go with Brigr. Prideaux. when you see Capt. Smith please to tender him my best Wishes & Kind Salutations & that I propose writing him when I have some news to fill my Paper with. I have realy none at present to tell you, but I dont feel clever when many Posts pass without writing you, how do you feel? I have had but two letters from you since I left Fort Johnson, if you are very busy I will put up with a few lines but when time permits I expect long letters.

No Packet yet arrived, we wonder at it, no Cause assigned, but Winds & Weather, perhaps the King of Spains Death, wch tho not certain, is yet very probable, may give a new turn to the political System of Europe & have detained the Packet. Yesterday it was said a Fleet was off our Port & supposed to be ours from Guadaloope with soldiers for Cape Breton, I am afraid they will be sickly & instead of a reinforcement produce Distempers.

We have lost Fort St. David in the East Indies & expected that Fort St George our Chief Settlement in those parts will follow. it will hurt individuals, but if all our possessions in the East Indies were gone, it might not perhaps be a national Loss, many judicious Persons think the East India Trade is on the whole, considered as an exclusive one, no advantage to Great Britain.

I impatiently expect to hear from you what route you are to take, when I know that, I shall patiently wait the Event of the Generals Plan, without being curious to dive into his Secrets, I think his reserve proper enough, as I believe it arises from Judgment & not affectation. he is marcht I hear, from Albany & all the Troops moved.

I hope your Scouts to Crown Point & Sweegachie are returned to your satisfaction.

Smith writes me, that the Indians have delivered up Mr McMickeys murderer, an extraordinary compliance if true. & I hope the General will follow your Advice upon it & not gratify an impudent & impolitic resentmt have you ever talked to the General about the scheme of building a strong Fort at Ft Du Quesn. I fear

without the Indians connivance it may be an unadvisable Scheme. —I wish your late Proceedings & y^r^ Letters for the Board of Trade were finished, as I think it quite proper they should be sent by the first Packet. Wells might copy the Proceedings & Clause the Letter.

I suppose upon aplication you may have your Garrison strengthened, if no Danger the smaller the better.

Smith writes me Maj^r^ Rogers has flung up his Commission, its a shame that worthy man has not some permanent Provision made for him. No Money coming from England to the Pay Masters here. The Contractors write they can get none to send, they know not what to do for money. The French are attempting to push thro the Straits of Belleisle one of their Store Ships taken by Sanders Fleet, two or three men of war & some Transports bound to Quebec taken in Europe.

*** Here follows a half sheet of paper endorsed, "Letter from Collo. Eyre, Crown Point, August 14th. 1759;" and addressed, "To Sr William Johnson." The letter, we regret to find has been purloined, by some dishonest person, from the bundle.

ORDER IN COUNCIL TO ENQUIRE INTO CERTAIN COMPLAINTS OF THE DELAWARE INDIANS.

At the Court at Kensington
(Seal) the 29th day of August 1759.

PRESENT

The Kings most Excellent Majesty

Arch Bishop of Canterbury	Earl of Hardwicke
Lord Keeper	Viscount Falmouth
Lord President	Viscount Barrington
Duke of Ancaster	Lord Berkely of Stratton
Earl of Cholmondeley	M^r^. Secretary Pitt

Whereas Benjamin Franklin Esq^r^. Agent appointed by the Assembly of Pensilvania, did some time since present his humble Petition to His Majesty at this Board, relating to the Differences subsisting between His Majestys Subjects and the Indians bordering upon the said Province, concerning large Quantitys of Land which

the said Indians alledge they have been deprived of without their Consent, or Satisfaction made them for the same, particularly of the Lands which are included within the Forks of the Kiver Delawar, and also of other Lands on both sides the said River — His Majesty having taken the same into Consideration, and received the Opinion of the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, and also of a Committee of the Lords of His Majestys most Honourable Privy Council thereupon, is pleased, with the advice of His Privy Council, to Order, as it is hereby Ordered, that His Majestys Agent for Indian Affairs, do examine thoroughly into the Complaints of the Delawar Indians with respect to Lands which they alledge they have been defrauded of by the Proprietaries; and that for this purpose he do take the earliest Opportunity of signifying to them, that he has in Consequence of what passed at the Conferences in July and August 1757, received His Majestys Orders to enquire into their Grievances, and press them to appoint such time and Place as shall be most convenient to them for that purpose. That he do likewise give timely notice of such meeting to the Commiss^{rs}. appointed by the Proprietaries to act on their Part, to the End they may come properly instructed, and prepared to support the Claims of their Constituents, and that when he shall have made a full and particular Enquiry into the Circumstances of the Case, and heard what all Partys may have to offer, he do transmit his Proceedings in this Business to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, in order to be laid before His Majesty, together with his Opinion of what may be proper to be done thereupon — And the said Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations are to signify the same to His Majestys said Agent for Indian Affairs accordingly.

W. Sharpe

Endorsed.

Order of His Majesty in Council dated August 29, 1759, directing that His Agent for Indian Affairs should enquire into the complaints of the Delawar Indians for their having been defrauded of their Lands, and transmit his Proceedings to this Board; and that their Lordships should signify the same to the s^{d}. Agent.

SEC'Y POWNAL TO SIR W^M. JOHNSON.

Whitehall Decr 13th 1759

Sir,

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners for Trade & Plantations to send you the inclosed Order of His Majesty in Council of the 29th of August last, containing His Majesty's Directions with respect to a Rehearing and Examination of the Complaints of the Indians, inhabiting the western part of the Province of Pensylvania, of their having been deprived of large Tracts of Land without their Consent or any Satisfaction made to them for the same: And that you may be fully informed of every Circumstance relative to the Proceedings upon which this Order is founded, I am also directed to send you at the same time a Copy of the Order of the Lords of the Committee of Council for Plantation Affairs, referring the Petition of M^r Franklin to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, together with their Lordships Report upon it.

I am,
Sir,
Your most obedient and
most humble Servant,
John Pownall
Secry

SIR W. JOHNSON TO THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Fort Johnson 5th June 1760.

My Lords,

As I am in doubt whether your Lordships have Received my Letter of the 17th May 1759 and my Proceedings with the confederate Indians before I took the field last Year with Brig^dr Gen^l Prideaux there being no mention made of them in y^e Lordships last Letter, I now send Duplicates of both among which the Treaty at Conojohary may shew to your Lordships that my Labours have not been in vain, it being concluded on at that time, by a general convention of the Six Nations & their Allies, after many Solicitations and interesting Arguments Suggested to them by me, to join us against the Enemy, which they did, last year to the amount of above a thousand fighting men at Niagara, from whence

I sent them home loaden with the spoils of the French: and tho' the Enemy put me to a deal of trouble, when their Army was near upon us, by sending some of their Indians under pretence of Parley with ours, but rather to inveigle & intimidate ours, I found means to retain even them, who tho' come into our Camp under French influence, made them fight against their Old Friends· And after the surrender of the Fort & I had Settl'd the Garrison &c necessary to be left in it; I employed these Indians very successfully, in sending them to the foreign Nations, on the over Side of the Lake, and elsewhere, to invite them to come in to me at Niagara & Oswego, where I appointed, which they did, and made friends with us, declaring they were sufficiently tired of the war & sorry for the part they acted against us.

I am now to acknowledge the Honour of Your Lordships Letter of y^e^ 13^th^ Decb^r^ last; with His Majestys Order in Council relative to the complaint of Tidescung the Delaware chief, Copy of whose Letter I also inclose, which was wrote to me in consequence of my apprizing him, that his Majesty had signified his intentions "That I should look into, & hear his complaint against the Proprietaries of Pensilvania concerning Lands & transmit them to your Lordships, to be laid before his Majesty." You will see by his Letter that business is postponed, As he has taken on with the Governor & People of that Colony, to convene some of the Western Indians to a Meeting, which when ended, may be so late as to interfere with the Military Branch of my office this Campaign, and may somewhat hinder my bringing the Indians in general together this Summer for actual service, altho' very well inclined: Thereupon cannot help remarking to Your Lordships, "That if the Ind^s^ are admitted to be under a Complicate and Multifarious Influence or Management, especially at this time, it must make any application to them uncertain, the Service liable to many inconveniences, & render the Indians more difficult to treat with, while the Power of acting seems to be divided, and the Plan of Directing them, not mutually concerted by me & those who affect & assume to be Supernecessary."

I must beg leave to repeat to your Lordships, the necessity there is of redressing the complaints of the Mohawks with regard

to their Lands, which they are incessantly murmering about, & very troublesome to me, as they live so contiguous. The Mohegan Indians living in Connecticut Colony, have also intreated me to Represent their Case to your Lordships, that their Lands may be ascertained to them, or at least paid for, I understand they have formerly preferred a Petition to the King in Council, from thence, are apt to believe their affair is better known at your Lordships Board, by means of their former Agent, than they can Explain it to me, so shall not trouble your Lordships with a farther Detail.

Envelop'd with this is the substance of the Mohawks late Complaints, from both Castles, made at a Conference at my house and by Letter from Conojohary, Extracted from the Records in the office of the Secretary of Indian affairs, to which Office I have appointed Mr Richard Shuckburgh, after the Decease of Capt. Wraxall who died the 11th of July last, and would be glad your Lordships would procure for him a Warrant or Commission for that Purpose, the late Mr. Wraxalls, I believe was Issued from the Secretary of States Office: the abovementioned Gentleman has resided many years in this Country, is acquainted with the Customs of the Indians, & every way qualified to discharge the Duty required, thereupon Recommend him for your Lordships approbation. I acquainted Genl Amherst of his appointment, to which he readily agreed: should any interest themselves against this Recommendation; I hope your Lordships will discountenance their solicitations, as it may be presumed I am the proper Judge of an officer, so near me as the Secretary of Indn. affairs.

I have now only to acquaint your Lordships that I have the most favourable answers from the Six nations and their confederates, on a Message I sent to them some time agoe, to hold themselves in readiness, 'till the time I receive the Generals orders for them to join the army, and have sent this Spring both to Niagara and Oswego Presents to the foreign Indians I treated with last Autumn at those Posts, as well as to the Six Nations, to be given at the discretion of the commanding officers there, and I expect to muster more Indians for the service this Summer, than I did last Campaign by far, having great expectations from the assurances given to me by the Ottawawas, Missisagoes, Chippeway's, who were

in the french interest, till y^e^ surrender of Niagara that they will join his Majestys arms this Campaign some of whom I have already Employed with several of y^e^ 6 Nations who are now out on Duty in the French Country.

I am with all due Respect
My L^ds^ y^r^ Lordships
Most ob^t^. most hble serv^t^.
W. J.

To the R^t^. Honb^le^.
the L^ds^ Commissioners
of Trade & Plantations.

HON^BLE^. OLIVER DELANCEY TO SIR W^M^. JOHNSON.

New York ye 20th. June 1761

Dear Sir

I Rec^d^. your Favour By the Post and shall by the first Conveyance write to Lady Warren for Her Aprobation of what you want and as soon as I can Look Over the Paper will send you the Deed you left with S^r^. Peter.

Inclosed is a Copy of a Letter I wrote to M^rs^. Cosby with an offer for Her Lands you^l^. be so Good as to let me know what Terms you Propose for them all and the Price as she has been so Good as to write M^r^. Ch. Williams that I shall have the Preference to any other Person If it will not be wrong in you I should be glad you^d^. be concerned in the Purchase with me which you might do giving as much as any other Person will do for the Whole

I am with True Regard
D^r^. S^r^.
Your most Obedient Serv^t^.
Oliver DeLancey.

The Hon^le^ S^r^ W^m^ Johnson Bar^t^.

*** Govr Cosby of N. York was married to the Late Ld Hallifax's Daughter, (Grace,) by whom he had two Sons & two Daughters; the Eldest of his Daughters married Ld Augustus Fitzroy third son of the late Duke of Grafton by whom he had Issue two sons vizt the present Duke of Grafton & Colo Charles Fitzroy,

HONOBLE OLIVER DELANCEY TO SIR WM JOHNSON

New York ye 19th Janry 1762

Dear Sir

I am Favoured with Yours of ye 5th Instant Your Proposal in Regard to the Purchase of Mrs Cosbys Land I should without Hesitation have Join'd in but as I am to be in Partnership with three other Persons in it in Equal Shares I have to Ask that instead of your holding half youd Consent to Take one quarter or at most one Third and I will oblige myself to Pay you the Proportion of the Remainder as soon as the Purchase is made I press this the more Ernestly as those Concerned with me are very intent to Offer a Larger sum could they Accomplish it, according to their First Design Your Answer I shall hope soon.

I have not heard from Lady Warren about any Business since I wrote Her about your Bonds as to the Deed I will Deliver it to any Person youl Please to Order As I dont think it safe to send it in the Common Way I shall be Obliged to You for any Papers You have Relative to Sr Peters Lands, And will give you a Lease of Seven Years for Mills Lott You Permitting the Man who is Already on to Live there as he is Youl let me know what you Propose to Give for the Yearly Rent I am with sincerity

Dr Sir

Your most Obedient Humble

Sert

To Sir William Johnson Bart Oliver DeLancey

married to Lady Warrens Daughter. When the father of these, Augustus Fitzroy Died, Lady Fitzroy married James Jeffries Esqr Commissioner of Customes. The present Lady Fitzroy is daughter to Sir Harry Liddel, now Ld Ravensworth. MSS.

Sir Wm. Johnson was appt'd Lady Cosby's Agent in this country 23 August 1763:—Her Ladyship's will, a copy of which is among these MSS., bears date 4th May 1767. She left the bulk of her personal, and all her real estate to her grand daughter Elzth. Jeffries, but in case this young lady should happen to die unmarried, or marry without the consent of her guardians, it was to go to her sisters, Grace and Lucy. Should all these ladies marry without their guardians' consent, the property was to be divided equally among them. The Trustees to Ladys C's estate appointed Sir Wm. Johnson their Attorney, in America, by power dated 22d March, 1768. Ed.

SIR Wᴹ. JOHNSON TO THE HONOᴮᴸᴱ OLIVER DELANCEY.

Castle Cumberland Feby 10th 1762.

Dear Sir

Your favour of the 19th Ultº I have received and as I have not yet had an answer to my letter of last June to Mʳˢ Cosby, I judge it must have miscarried, therefore shall (as I now have some leisure) proceed to dispose of her share the tract to the best advantage and without being concerned therein myself readily agree to your purchasing the same, I shall therefore desire to know by the first opportunity the highest price which you may chuse to give, as there are several persons who have signified their desire to buy it.

As I understand by your Letter to Mʳˢ Cosby (a Copy of which you enclosed me) that there is a Mortgage on the land, I should be glad to know for what Sum, & in whose hands it is—

I am a good deal surprised, and uneasy at not receiving the bonds from Lady Warren or you which were so long discharged I must urge the giving them up as soon as may be and hope you'll enclose the Deed which you can send by the post or otherwise—

I can't recollect that I have any papers relative to Sir Peters Lands, but as all my papers are at Fort Johnson, I shall make a search when I return, and transmit you any which I may find relative thereto—

I have asked the Man who lives on that tract of the late Mʳ Miler, what he was to pay for the 100 acres, he tells me, You promised it to him on the same lay, as the Tenants living on Warrensborough have their lands, if so, I am content, but for seven years, I believe you will expect little or no rent, Considering it is a thick wood without a foot of clear land, however, you will let me know what I must pay for it and I shall acquiesce.

I am with great esteem &c—

The Honble
Oliver Delancey Esqʳ

SIR W^M. JOHNSON TO MRS. COSBY.

Fort Johnson Febry 13th 1762

MADAM

Before my departure for the D'Etroit last Summer, I was honoured with your kind Letter of March last, which I failed not imediately to answer, but not having received the pleasure of Line from you since, I herewith enclose you a Copy of that which I then wrote, least it might have miscarried.

I am very sensible of the confidence you have reposed in me, but being so circumstanced at the receipt of yours, nothing could be done therein till my return from the D'Etroit except the proposal which I then made and which I was chiefly induced to offer, from an earnest desire of serving you immediately therein.

As M^r DeLancey has obtained the refusal of the land from you I have acquainted him with my approbation thereof, and am now proceeding to dispose of it to the best advantage.

In case my proposal has met with your approbation and that the lands shall now sell for a higher price than I offered, I shall notwithstanding transmit you the full sum which they may be disposed of for, after deducting the Quit-rent, and whatsover may be due thereon.

I understand M^r D^eLancey that there is a Mortgage on the Land which must be discharged before it can be conveyed. I should therefore be desirous to know, what the amount of the Mortgage is & in whose custody it now remains.—and as to the rest of your Interest in this Country, as soon as I can inform myself thereof I shall not fail to use all possible care & despatch in disposing thereof to the best advantage. happy in every opportunity which offers to convince you of my desire to serve you as well as as to assure you how much I am Madam

Endorsed with all imaginable esteem

Letter to M^rs Cosby Your Most obed^t & most humble Serv^t

relative to her Lands

Dated

Fort Johnson Feb^y 13^th 1762

MRS. CUMMINS TO SIR WM. JOHNSON.

Schenectady 19 February 1762.

Dr. Sir

Your kind favour of the 11 of last month I should have answered long since, but postponed it expecting still, from time, to time, a conclusion of my unhappy affairs, which was not at a period until last friday, tho the effects were advertised to be sold by auction, the 28 of last month, nor realy would not now but that I posatively insisted on it, but when it did goe on, Mr. lyle exerted his authority to the very utmost its true he left me a bed, for which I'm extreamly oblig'd to him, tho I understand it was at the request of Mr. Sutter, to whom he swore hee'd sell it, he never even paid me the compliment of a kettle to boil my victuals tho he sold 8, I told him when he came to town, that I intend'd giveing him up every thing, my cloaths & linen except'd, & if he call'd for them, he should have ym, when I mend linnen, I meant what belonged to the house, as well as myself, tho at the same time had not the least thou't he would dispose of any thing of the kind, he said he would not deprive me, of what belong'd to my self but every thing else he expected, my assurances did not satisfye him, he searched every corner of the house, only the back room where I sat, & you may judge Dear Sir in what condition, there were several of the neighbours wd have bid for things for my use if I'd allow it, but Mr. Sutter was so good natur'd he insisted on trying for the cow, she was rais'd to £5–5 & he offer'd to pay the money down, but I declin'd it being under obligations to him before, did not chuse to add that to the number, which happen'd very well as to that, for Mr. lyle dispos'd of what little was left, & then the cow wd be more expence to me than she was worth, as fother is so excessive deer and indeed scarce any to be had, she was a very good creature, my next neighbour wd have given £6–10 for her, but that he heard she was design'd for me,— there was 2 fold Table cloths left in the Car without design, which he took out & sold, when I heard that I sent him 3 pair of sheets & 2 cloths more & desir'd catey adems to tell him had I known he intended selling the house linnen, I would have had ym ready but

the course sheets were dirty, as I never had sperits nor strength to wash them, since I came from the Country, he made no answer but seem'd displeas'd & keept tantaliz'g me the whole day asking what more, tho told him from the begin'g I was determin'd but still I could observe his eyes on the bed and if one can judge from appearances, he thought at that time, he laid me under obligations to him which never could be enough acknowledged, I hope Dear Sir you will not jmagine I mention this out of prejudice for it realy was the oppinion of every one pres^{t}. when the fire irons were sold M^{rs}. Vandervolake sent a new shovel & tongs before M^{r}. lyle & has been vastly civel to me in many respects since my troubles, she has several things of mine such as sheets & table cloths, & posatively refus'd letting me have them the day of the vandue, but not to tire your patience any longer, on the conclusion of the affair M^{r}. lyle paid me a vast genteel compliment, before M^{rs}. Stevens & some others, he told me there was half a doz^{n}. chairs & a settlebead, which might be of some service to me, I made an acknowledgm^{t}. as well as I was capable at the time, he order'd them to be brought into the room, told me hee'd see me before he left town, & went away, some time after M^{r}. Nixon came and ask'd me if I intend'd keeping the chairs, M^{rs}. Stevens said, M^{r}. lyle had made me a present of y^{m} his answer was, that hee'd order'd him to take them away, if I did not pay him £1–1s which was the vandue price the were almost bottomless & when they were repair'd they'd be as dear as new ones, so I let him take them, the effects that were sold came to £122–10–9. I now beg to know what kind of a receipt I'm to ask when he comes up, & as I have no father nor friend to apply to for an advice and as you have always behav'd like a father to me since I'd the honour of knowing you, begs Dear Sir you'll be kind enough to give me your instructions for my future way of living, & then I shall be able to let some people know I'm ready to receive any proof of friendship they are pleas'd to favour me with M^{r}. dunkin in perticular & who I'le defer sending to, till I've the pleasure of hearing from you.

I'd have wrote the day after the vandue but poor dady morris was taken so ill he was not able to goe, he was so very bad that

I realy almost dispair'd of his life but I thank god he is now much better,

I am Dear Sir with the Greatest
Respect your most obed^{t}. humble
Servant
ELINORA CUMMINS

bad pen ink
paper & a sorrowfull
heart I hope will plead
my excuse for this scroul

HON. OL: DELANCEY TO SIR WM. JOHNSON.

New York ye 28th Feby 1762.

DR SIR

I rec^{d}. Your Favour of y^{e} 12th Instant in which you Decline being concern^{d}. in the Purchase of M^{rs} Cosbys Lands and that you^{d} Readily agree to My Purchasing them I am Obliged to you for the Proposall and am Ready to give for them as Much as you offered for Them or as Much more as any other Person will give that is Able to Pay for Them So that I have to Ask the favour of You to fix the Price.

The Mortgage is in Lady Warrens or Lord Ansons Hands The Exact Sum I cant Tell you as I cant lay My Hands on the Copy I had of it.

As to your Paying any Stipulated Rent for the Lands of Milr I am not anxious about as I am persuaded any thing yo do to it will Rather improve than Hurt it So Shall leave to your own Discretion what Shall be Done as I imagine you^{l} be the Purchaser when it is Sold

Herein I Enclose you the Deeds you Desire, Viz, Indenture of Release from

Joseph Clement to S^{r} W^{m} Johnson
Deed from Phillip Phillips
Deed from Do
Deed from William & Elizabeth Powell

I shall again Put Lady Warren in Mind of Your Desire to have

the Bond Delivered to you. I have only to Add that I am with Greatest Esteem

Dr Sir

Your most Obedient Humble Servant

Oliver DeLancy

Sir William Johnson Bt.

endorsed

New York Febry 28th 1762

Letter from Oliver Delancy Esqr.

wth proposals.

SIR Wm. JOHNSON TO THE HONBLE. OLIVER DELANCEY.

Fort Johnson 12th March 1762.

Dear Sir,

This day came to hand your favour of the 28th. Ulto. enclosing the Deeds which were among Mr. Warrens Papers, and shall expect the Bonds, as soon as you have Lady Warrens directions, which I am surprised has been so long postponed.

there have been numbers of Farmers lately with me, wanting to buy Mrs. Cosbys Land, and find they are verry willing to pay £100 p Hundred Acres, as the land is verry good, there are also Gentlemen, who would willingly purchase ye. whole, as I before observed to you, who I imagine will give much more for it than you are pleased to offer. the Stop, which I understand, is now put to further purchaseing Indian Lands. must also greatly enhance the Value of what is already pattented, wherefore I beleive £6000 Currcy. will not be thought too much for Mrs. Cosbys Share of that Pattent. when I learn the utmost, the others will give for it, I shall write you my final resolution thereon.

As I am told that you are concerned in adjusting and settleing Mr. Shirleys Accts. I enclose you an acct. of expences attends my going to call a Meeting of the Six Nations at Onondaga in ye year by order of Generl. Shirley to which is also added the expence of carrying up the Baggage provisions &ca of Capt. Pattens Company of Grenadiers, who were ordered as an Escort.— General Abercrombie offerred to pay the acct., if they would

abate something of the Charge for horse Hire. w^ch Conrad Frank who is the principal, was afraid to comply with least the others might compel him to pay y^e. whole by w^ch. means the acc^tt. rests still unpaid; as it is a hardship on the People who did that Service to be so long out of their money; I flatter myself that you and the rest of the Gentlemen concerned will order them payment.—

I am D^r. Sir
most sincerely your Wellwisher
& verry Humble Serv^t.
W. J.

The Honr^ble. Oliver DeLancey Esq.—

HONBLE OL: DELANCEY TO SIR W^M. JOHNSON.

New York ye 22d March 1762.

Dear Sir

By the Post I rec'd Your Favour of y^e 12^th. Inst^t. I am Glad You received the Deeds I inclosed Whenever I have Lady Warrens Directions about the Bonds I will Imediately send Them to You.

I Observe by Yours You have Had Offers for M^rs. Cosbys Lands and that from the Present Circumstances You Value Her share at Six Thousand Pounds Currency Though I am Obliged to You for Your Hint That I might Expect it for Less if no Person should offer that Price Yet to put an End to further Treaty about it and that I may not be Disapointed in what I am Pretty farr Engaged I will Give the Six Thousand Pounds which I think the full Value and pay You the Money as soon as the Proper Conveyance Can be Drawn for Which End You will send down to some Person You Can trust here the Necessary Papers to form them by.

I am one of the Commissioners for Adjusting General Shirleys Accounts but they are only the Articles Comprehended in his Agents Accounts of Which that You Send down is no Part but as I understand the Gen^ll. proposes paying all such Demands on the

Crown During that Command I shall take Care to Forward Yours among the rest I am with Great Regard

Dr. Sir

Your Most Obedient Humble Sert.

Oliver DeLancey

To Sr. William Johnson Bart.

SIR WM JOHNSON TO THE HONOBLE GRACE COSBY.

New York 13. July 1762.

Madam

I am to acquaint you that I have sold to Mr Oliver DeLancey your part in the Manor of Cosby, for £6,000 Currency, and two Thousand Acres, which lyes on the South side of the Mohawk River between Fort Hunter, and Schenectady, for £500, Currency, of which he has paid me the Sum of four thousand Pounds Currency and passed his Bond for the remaining two thousand five hundred Pounds, which sum he is to pay on demand, without Interest, provided you discharge the Mortgage and Quit Rent which it is encumbered with; if said incumbrance is to be paid here, I will, as soon as I can learn how much it is, settle it with Mr DeLancey, and remit you the overplus if any there should be.

Enclosed You have a Bill on the Rt Honoble the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury for £2119,14,7. which I bought of Mr John Watts of New York at 90 Exchange being the lowest I could possibly buy bills at. You will find that I was obliged to advance twenty seven Pounds nine Shillings and Eight Pence Currency of my own to purchase said Bill,

I have the honr to be &c

(Sign'd) Wm Johnson

SIR WM JOHNSON TO CHARLES WILLIAMS.

Johnson Hall Decr 31st 1762

Dear Sir

I am favored with your Letter together with that of Mrs Cosby, & am glad to hear things have been done to her satisfaction—

I should be glad you would apply to Mr DeLancey for the power of Atty which you will please to send up by the first good opportunity together with the other papers in the hands of Mr Jones.

You will please to Advertise the Lead Mine, with such Description as you think necessary, & directions for particulars to apply to yourself at New York or to me at this place as impowered to dispose of the same, and as you are better acquainted therewith I should be glad you would let me know the Quality of the Ore, whether it has ever been opened or Worked, & any other particulars relative thereto

Please to offer my Compliments of the Season to all your good family and believe to be with Sincerity

Dr Sir &c

Chas Williams Esqr

HONOBLE OL. DELANCEY TO THE HONOBLE GRACE COSBY.

New York 18th Septr 1763

Madam

A few Days ago I received the Letter you did me the honor to write the 24th June last in Consequence of which, I have to assure you that it is equal to me, whether the Mortgage is discharged here or in England, but it is absolutely necessary it be done as it will always be an incumbrance on the Title You have given me, for which reason, I shall take it as a favor you get a discharge for Lord Anson's Share, and I shall desire Lady Warren to send over the Mortgage to me. and I will take care to settle Immediately with Sr Wm Johnson, and discharge that Part that is due to Sr Peter's Estate, I am Madam

Your &c

(Signed) Oliver DeLancey

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO COMY GEN. LEAKE.

Johnson-hall Feby 9. 1764.

Dear Sir,

I wrote you sometime ago concerning one Mr. Byrne but least my Letter should have miscarried, I must again request the favour

of your notice on his behalf; he was Commissary at the Royal Block-house, Oneida Lake on behalf of the contractors, and being a Man who was once in good circumstances, I should take it as a favour if you would conveniently continue him on the King's behalf, at any good post you may think proper, & I am hopefull he will appear deserving your Kindness.

It is not easy for me to describe the variety of business & trouble in which I have been involved since the commencement of the Indian war, but I have the satisfaction to find that my labours have secured these Frontiers & Communications, as well as preserved the Fidelity of Five out of the Six Nations, with those of Canada & many others who have repeatedly desired to be employed against our Enemies, and as I am now enabled to send them on Service I have accordingly this day, sent off a party of near 200 (with proper Indian Officers) who are destined against the *Delawares Shawanese* &c^{a}. which party shall be speedily followed by some others, from whose operations I Expect the neighbouring frontiers will be rendered pretty secure, & the Enemy reduced to great straits.

The utility of employing Indians ag^{t}. Indians will I believe appear plainly to you, since the engaging them as principals in the War will break their connections hereafter, and end in the destruction of many of our Enemies, besides, they are the best calculated for attacking one another, in a Country where our troops must inevitably meet with the greatest difficultys and losses, without being able to effect any thing considerable, whilst some partys of Indians accompanied by Experienced and well chosen Woodsmen will be able to discover our Enemies haunts, compell them to come to an Action, and cut off their Retreat—at least such party's will greatly contribute to the success of any operations of our troops in the spring, as will prove a means of breaking their union, & of intimidating those Indians who are too much elated with the successes of last year.

Whenever your time will permit I shall be very glad to hear from you as I am, Dear Sir,

Your Sincere Friend
& Humble Servant

Rob^{t}. Leake Esq^{r}. Wm. Johnson.

MRS. COSBY TO SIR W^M. JOHNSON.

Heneritta Street Feb ye 11th 1764.

Sr

I receved yours by Mr Harris. and was glad to hear you was well, and hope by this time all is quiatt with the Indians. I disire the whole Mortgag to be paid of, as Mr Olliver Delancey writes me word he must, if L^d Ansons share is not paid, I must be at a good deall of trouble from this side to get a discharge for the same and think it best to clear it there. I conclude you have received my letter for the selling my Son Will^m lands. for in his state of Lunicey tis in me, to take care of, and put the monys out for him & his heirs. I hope you will allso part with the lands belonging to me, and the Shares in the Lead mine. I wish for an opertunitey to serve you and express the grattetude of Sr

Your most

L^d Halifax
desires his
Compli^ts

Obliged hum^ble
Servtt
G Cosby

JAMES RIVINGTON TO SIR W^M. JOHNSON.

N York Feb 20 1764

I recd the fav of y^r Excellys Letter of y^e 9^th Inst & have forwarded a few pamphlets &c by this post w^ch hope may afford some amusement.

The account of your Exclys having engaged the Friendly Indians in an offensive War against the disturbers of our Tranquillity is received here with general Joy & permit me to tell you Sir that we all look up to you as the Happy Instrument in the hands of providence for terminating a quarrell which in other hands would have certainly brought ruin & dessolation upon this Infant Country. These are the Sentiments of the Intelligent world both in Europe & in America.

I have written for a Sett of the Chronicles to be sent to me from the General Post Office & wh^ch I will forward by every opportunity after y^e arrival of a pacquet.

As I am am now regularly supplied with all the new publications

I will take care that you shall be constantly acquainted with the daily events upon the Grand Theatre. I have taken the Liberty to enclose a List of Articles in which I deal besides that of Books Paper &c &c If any of them should be wanting at Johnson Hall I will not fail to execute the orders w^ch^ I may be favoured with on terms that will afford satisfaction to my Friends & do myself much Credit. I am

Sir

Your Excellencys

Most obedient humble serv

JAM^s^ RIVINGTON.

The 22^d^ Regiment consisting of 300 Men under Maj^r^ An Loftus is gone up the Missisipi to take post (if they can) at Fort Chartres in the Illinois Country, Query, how many will return to give accounts of the rest.

Col Robinson is on his return from So Carolina by Land, he has visited Augustini Pensacola Mobile New Orleans &c.

The French Ambasador has communicated to our Court the Exchange agreed upon betwixt Spain & France of The latters Possessions in Louisiana with New Orleans for a settlement in the Gulph of Darien nigh y^e^ Isthmus of Panama, & not their Part of Hispaniola as formerly asserted. Col Bouquet is arriv^d^ at Philadelphia from Pitsburg, he is hourly expected here.

Col Bane in a Speech upon the allowance of Provisions to the American Soldiers insisting upon the necessity of that measure received the day following a message from the King intimating that he had no farther occasion for his Services on w^ch^ his Patron Lord Shelburn & himself resigned.

Mr Wilkes is growing vastly in popularity & altho he may suffer from the resentments of Lord & Commens yet he is very much the object of popular affection Animosity runs very high at home his Majesty remains very determined in his resolutions of supporting his own Ministry & the opposition gathers strength daily, but still the bulk of Numbers prevails on the unconstitutional side of the question.

I write in a vast hurry what I have said has been done in the most dissipated manner & greatly stands in need of your Excel-

lencys Candour wch I am certain will be shewn to one whose business employs every hour of the day without hardly allowing time for meals.

The Ship New Hope arrived from England on Saturday morning; in her came an officer who affirms that there is an extreem great outcry against General Amherst wch is supported by all the Army that served in America now in England & that Col Lee late of ye 44th is now employing himself in writing upon the Conduct of that Officer during his Command in this Country.

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO JAMES RIVINGTON.

Johnson-hall May 17th 1764.

Sir

I have received your Letter of the 4th inst and I thank you for the many interesting particulars you have communicated I heartily wish Genl. Monckton may meet with ample Satisfaction on account of the reflections you speak of, which I make no doubt are as false as they are injurious to his Character.

The Chronicles shall be sent down to you, by the next post. I hope you will soon be enabled to supply me with those you Expect from England.

The Indians have been for some time in readiness to joyn the Troops, who are hitherto delayed on account of the Connecticut Forces not being arrived. These delays are very unlucky at this time as they give the ill disposed Indians an opportunity of Exerting all their influence to form a strong party. The flying Delawares will probably take advantage of it, by representing our incapacity to raise men, and by pointing out to the rest the necessity of supporting them as a common cause on which the power of the Indians will in a great measure depend.

I am at present too much hurried to be more particular but I shall be always glad of your correspondence as

I am,

P. S. I should be glad you would procure *a new History of the World* by Guthrie & Gray which is now I find printing off in London, a vol. each month.

INTERVIEW BETWEEN SOME MOHAWKS AND SR. WM. JOHNSON.

Thursday, September 20th. 1764.

Abraham
Daniel
Hendrick
Aaron
Isaac
John

Six of the Chiefs and Warriors, of the lower Mohawks came to Sir William Johnson at Johnson Hall, and desired a Hearing; which being Granted: ABRAHAM, their chief Sachem, Spoke as follows—

BROTHER GORAGH WARRAGHIAGUY.

WE are come here at the desire of our Castle to Speak to You. Before we enter on the Subject of our Complaint we would desire to remind You of the first Agreement, and Friendship, Settled between your Ancestors and ours, which We have ever since closely followed; and flatter ourselves You can vouch for Us, since your comeing to the Country, and particularly for our conduct in the old french War; wherein We exerted ourselves, and brought in many Scalps and Prisoners to You.—On the breaking out of the last War we were again applied to for our Assistance, and told that it was for our Country, which the French wanted to Creep into by different ways, that the War was Commenced: and, that, should You & We be favor'd so much by the Almighty, as to Lay the French under, We should then be a happy People, and Enjoy our Lands in Peace.

We were in hopes after the Reduction of Canada, of Seeing that happy Time; but to our great concern, the Western, and other foolish Nations, soon removed that wished for Prospect, by falling upon our Brethren, their Forts and Settlements; on which We were again applied to by You, to Rise and help to punish those unthinking People. This appear'd to Us so Reasonable, that We complied (remembering, as We before observ'd, the Engagements our fore Fathers had enter'd into) and fell upon some of Them, and their Settlements, last Winter; in which we were Successfull; and now our People are with the Army to Assist in punishing or bringing to Reason, those bad People; thinking that after those Nations were brought to their Senses, We and our young Men should sit down, & enjoy Peace, agreable to what was told Us. But, Brother, to our very great Concern, We understand from many People, that in a short time, some of our

Brethren are determined to deprive us of the chief Tract of hunting Land we have left, called Kayaderossres, with a great quantity of Land about it, which we never could Learn, from the most strict Enquiry made several Years ago, had been Sold by our Nation: Wherefore We must Say if that is to be the case, We are much deceived in the Opinion We ever Entertain'd of our Brethren's Honesty — But after our uninterupted Regard and Attachment to Them; and the many accounts We have had from You of the Uprightness of the great King, and his determin'd Resolution to See Justice done to all Well disposed Indians, We can hardly think of being so Treated and Wronged — What We now Request is, that You will write to the Governor, and let him & his great People know our earnest Desire; which is, that He and They will not suffer any People to deprive Us unjustly of our Lands, but to stop any Proceedings now intended, with regard to Kayaderossres untill the great King's Pleasure is known, Who, we are sure, will not suffer Us to be so greatly Wronged, as it must alarm all the Nations of Indians, and shew them what a bad Return We have for our Services to the English— A Belt.

Brother

We now acquaint You that as some of our People lately were on the Hunt, about Kayaderossres Creek and the Lakes in that Quarter, They, to their surprise discovered several Settlements of English there,—They would not go near them, till they had acquainted Us of it—We now tell You Brother, that we intend to send some of our Soberst, & most Sensible People, to desire these People to move off of our Lands, which we hope they will without farther trouble, as they have no Right to it.

Then They Ended

Sir William told them, He would send their Request to the Lieut. Governor, who, He did not doubt would do all in his Power to see Justice done to Them: and that as soon as he Received his Answer, would acquaint them therewith: then desired, that they would by no means, have any Dispute with the People living thereon.

A true Copy from the Original

A true Copy
Gw Banyar D Secr^ty

Witham Marsh
Secry for Ind^n. Affairs

HON: OL: DELANCEY TO SIR W: JOHNSON.

Decr 20. 1764

Sir

The Enclos'd Account will shew You the State of the Moneys paid & still to be paid on the Lands I purchased of You as Mrs Cosbys Attorney the Tract on the North side of the Mohawks River which was expressly sold for 21000 Acres appears by Survey performed by one Christopher Yates to contain only 18000 which makes a Deficiency of 3000 Acres & that calculated at 5s 8½ an acre amounts to the sum 856,5,0 and this sum together with the Quit Rents due on Each Tract the moneys paid you and the Indians with the Principal and Interest due on the Mortgage to the late Sir Peter Warren including a debt also due to his Estate from Henry Cosby Esqr deceased for Rent upon a Lease of Turtle Bay, which Debt is Secured and protected by the Morgage, Make the whole sum amount to 8016,17,2½ when the moneys to be paid Mrs Cosby for the land is no more than 6500l on a Supposition therefore that I am to pay the Quit Rents, Mortgage, Debt on Lease, there will be a Ballance due to me from Mrs Cosby on Account of these Lands amounting to the Sum of £1516,17,2½ as it will be extreamly hard for me to put up with my proportion of this Loss it will be equally hard and perhaps more so upon my Partners James Jauncey, Peter Remsen and Goldsbrow Banyar who you well Know are equally concerned in the purchase with me I must therefore desire you to write to Mrs Cosby as soon as possible represent to Her the Hardship upon myself and partners and use all the influence in your power to prevail upon her to Settle with Lady Warren and pay off and discharge immediately the Principal and Interest due on the mortgage as also the Debt or Lease for as that debt is secured by the Mortgage it must be also discharged (if insisted upon) whenever the moneys due on the Mortgage are paid. I need not mention to you the necessity of being speedy in your application to Mrs Cosby upon this subject for when you consider her age and the consequence (perhaps) of her death to my self and partners in the purchase you see the expediency of it, As I shall write to Lady Warren by the first opportunity & use my Influence with her to have this affair of the

Mortgage and Debt on the Lease Settled between her & Mrs Cosby in England if you will therefore send your dispatches for Mrs Cosby to me they shall be forwarded with mine.

New York Decbr 20th 1764 I am
Sr William Johnson Yor very humble Servt

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO THE HON. OL. DELANCEY.

Johnson-hall Jany 7th 1765

Sir

I have really been remiss with regard to sevl matters which Mrs Cosby has wrote to me upon, but my great & continued hurry of public business must apologize for it.—by this time I presume you are informed of the amt of the Mortgage on your purchase, which I cannot hear from Mrs Cosby, If so I should be glad you'd settle it, with the Quit rent to the time of purchase, so that the Affair may be finally settled.—

I should be glad you would Let me have a Lease for Milrs Tract agreable to your promise, upon the same Lay, as Mr Warren's Lands have been usually Let, I shall be a purchaser for it whenever it is to be sold, it lying very Contiguous to my Estate. & in yt. I expect yr. Interest.

Not having heard anything of the Bonds, for sometime past I must beg the favour of You to let me know whether you have as yet received them from Lady Warren, and if not that you will mention them again to her whenever you write to England, as it gives me some concern that I am so long without them.—

There is nothing at present here in the Way of News, worth Writing the Inds as usual are about me, & I am given to understand that the Shawanese and Delawares, will shortly be here to enter into a Treaty of peace, tho' I apprehend the former are not very sincere in their resolutions, as they are better able to receive Supplys from the French, which it appears they have constantly done ever since the Commencement of hostilities

Pray offer my best Complimts to Mrs DeLancey, and believe me to be D' Sir Your Sincere Friend
& very humble Servt.

The Honble Oliver DeLancey Esqr

HON: OL. DELANCEY TO WM. JOHNSON.

New York ye 28th Janry 1765.

Dr Sir

I yesterday Received your Favour of the 8th Instant as to Mrs Cosbys affair my Letter of ye 20th December last (of which I now Send you a Copy) will explain you have also an accou Stating how it is circumstanced in the final Settlement of which I must ask you to use your Interposition or friendship that I and the persons concerned with me may not be so great Loosers as we would be could we Gett no Redress.

I am very willing you should have a Lease of Milrs Tract as I am certain its being in your possession would much promote its value but as the Term for which it can be Lett is so short as about 5 years when Sr Peters youngest Daughter will be of age and then most Probably it will be sold and you may make the Purchase which I will do you all the good offices in my Power that you have the Preference which from your Connections with the Heirs you are entitled to If you choose so short a Lease you can have it by letting me know, as soon as I do I will execute one.

Your Bonds are in my Possession but as Sr Peter by his will bequeathed to your Family a Legacy of what you should owe him I took advice about the Delivery of them to you and cant with Propriety Deliver them unless your Relations signify their assent when that appears I shall Readily do it for Lady Warren or her Children have no Right in them.

I am obliged to you for your Indian intelligence America is much Indebted to you for its Present Tranquility I Heartily wish this Savage Superintendancy will give you time to See your friends and that you Lived more at your ease.

Your Bretheren of the Council have for some Time Past been closely Employd by the Lieut Governor who has been using his utmost Efforts to Introduce a new mode of appeal in a manner that would Influence any impartial by Stander that he had the cause more at Heart Than the welfare of the Country or the continuance of the Laws of England in the Old & Happy Channel and as the Council Think very much at the Risque of the Liberty of the subject on this Side the Ocean. I this morning saw Mr Johnson

& Captain Johnson they were So Good as to promise to call on me were it in my Power I should on Your account do them every Service, be assured that I am Dear Sir

Your True Friend & Most Humble Servant

To William Johnson Bart Oliver DeLancey.

SIR Wm JOHNSON TO THE HON: MRS. COSBY.

Johnson-hall March 12th. 1765.

Madam

The very Extraordinary & inconceivable trouble which the Duty of my Office has Engaged me in for these 3 or 4 months, in particular, & in fact Ever since last Spring has necessarily prevented me from Writing to you for some time past.

Mr. DeLancey has lately wrote me that on a Survey made of the Tract which he bought & which was Computed to be 21,000 acres it proved but 18000 so that a Deficiency remains of 3000, which Computed at 5 – 8 N Y Curr. an acre amounts to the sum of £856: 5: 0 Curr. which with the Quit rents due, the money he has paid & an allowance made to the Inds, with the principle and Interest due on the Mortgage to the late Sr Peter Warren including a debt also due to his Estate from the late Henry: Cosby Esqr. for rent on a Lease of Turtle bay which Debt is secured (he says) & protected by the Mortgage make the whole sum amt. to 8016. 17. 2½ that the sum to be paid you was only £8500. on a supposition therefore that he is to pay the Quit rents, Mortgage, & Debt on Lease there will be a ballance due to him from you of £1516. 17. 2½ he has therefore applied to me in ye most pressing manner to represent the hardships it is to himself and partners & to request you would settle with Lady Warren & pay off the principal & Interest due on the Mortgage as also the Debt on the Lease which is thereby secured & must be discharged (if required) when the Money due on the Mortgage is paid, all which I must recommend to your Consideration.

The late Indian hostilities which I can hardly consider as yet Settled have prevented my being able hitherto to do any thing

about the other Lands you want sold, the Lead mine I advertised & have tryed sev^{l}. people about it but cannot get a purchaser as yet, and with regard to the other Large Tract left by Gov^{r} Cosby's Will to William Cosby Esq^{r}. I don't apprehend I can set about to Disposing of it until I have another particular power of attorney, as you now sell it from the Insanity of your Son, which is said here must be proved in due form but you can doubtless get the best advice in London what are the necessary steps to be taken farther (if any) as I am not a sufficient Judge of these matters, and whenever I am favored with your answer I shall do all in my power to have it well sold.

I heartily wish you all happiness & am

With great respect

Madam, &c.

Honble M^{rs}. Cosby

SIR W^{M}. JOHNSON TO THE HON^{BL}. OL. DELANCEY

Johnson-hall March 22d 1765.

Dear Sir

I embrace the first opportunity of answering your favour, of January 28th. in consequence of which I wrote to M^{rs}. Cosby agreable to what you desired.

By Sir Peter Warrens last Will, one third of what I should owe him went to my use & the rem^{g} two thirds was bequeathed to my family, and our accts being afterwards settled by Reference before M^{r}. Nicholls & Chambers' by desire of the Executors there appeared a just ballance to no small amount in My favour the orig^{l}. of which signed by the aforesaid Gents is now in my Custody which with the papers thereto annexed sufficiently Exemplify the acc^{ts}. on both sides. there is also over & beside the ballance, settled, a considerable acc^{t}. which tho' not charged was submitted to Lady Warren, as I could not be particular, altho' I had a right to make it from the nature of the sev^{l}. charges made ag^{t}. me with all which you are doubtless so well acquainted that I shall not trouble you on that head; for these reasons I apprehend that my family can have no Expectations or claim upon me or the

Estate of Sir Peter, in right of these bonds the ballance being so much in my favour as may appear on equal authority with the Charges made against me & therefore I am of opinion the bonds should be restored but should the Assent of my Relations be still farther insisted on I shall write to my Brothers and Sisters to obtain the same which will be chearfully acceded to.

I find by a late Survey made of the patent of Caghnawaga in order to give the present owners thereof their equal shares in the words thereof, they have deviated from the Gen^{l}. beginning of the patente and thrown that of Governeur &c farther back so as to take away all, Milns Tract and the Improvements thereon, or rather to alter its position much to its disadvantage by giving it in an unimproved place, for which reason I would deferr the Leases until I hear farther about it, as I apprehend it will occasion some dispute in the Neighbourhood. I could wish it was in my power to see you and the rest of my friends as you have observed, but I am really the Least master of my own time of any Labourer in the Country, and from the continued succession of business have no prospect of visiting New York, at the same time that my remote situation in a Wild Country gives me little reason to expect seeing many of my Friends here. My Son and Son in law wo^{d}. have done themselves of pleasure of making you a Visit but that they left town in a great hurry & heard you was in the Country.

Pray make my best Compliments to M^{rs}. DeLancey & believe me to be &c.

M^{R}. JACOB DYCKMAN TO SIR W^{M}. JOHNSON.

Kings Bridge March 22d 1765

Sir

I Wrote you two letters last April About the trees I sent you but fear Were Miscarried thinking Otherwise I Would have had an answer, I Wrote you the Particulars about them.

I Before told you I would Come and see them safe up but your answer was you thought they would be taken Proper care of which I fear they were not as M^{r} Marsh told me they Pined very Very much last Summer

I would Always be glad to answer your Request About Trees Plants &c I Can now furnish You with 100 Grafted pippins and as many natural trees as you please. Mr Marsh told me (a Little before he Died) that Captain Johnson & Captain Closs were setling two new Plantations If they Can think of Any thing I Can Serve them In Their Orders Shall always be Received by me as a favour and Complied with If Possible—

We have now a famous Breed of Sheep Amongst us If you want a fine Ram I will send you One worth keeping of the right Old England Breed I Can also send you a Bull Calf of A Holland Bull Imported by Alderman Lawrence no more at present but Remain Sir Your Very Humble Servent

JACOB DYCKMAN

COL. GLEN TO SIR WM. JOHNSON.

Schonectady, 23d March. 1765

SIR

I Have Received Your favor last Night. I haue this Morning Sent by Charley Breeson In Two Battoos Seventeen Barrills of Pork and four Do of Flowir, for the use of the Indians. I haue directed it to be Left at Mr Dow Fonda at Cognawage as Soon as they Return I shall Send Them again, If you think four Battoo Load will not do I beg Please To let me Know and I will Immidietly Send You more. I have acquainted Mr Duncan of the Battoos Sent and will let him know when I send the othirs,

I am Your most Obedient
Humble Servant

To Sir William Johnson Bart JNO GLEN Junr

MR. WILLIAMS TO SIR WM. JOHNSON.

New York 14 May 1765

DEAR SIR

I should have done my self the Honour of answering your favour sooner but supreme court drawing on Mr. Jones was Very busy I forwarded Mrs. Cosbys letter by the next pacquet after it came down shall send by Mr. Hansanclever all the deeds Mr.

Jones says I can send which relates to Capt. Cosbys lands, But several of them he has relates to Mrs. Cosbys lands as well as the Captains so that they cannot be sent, Mr. Jones likewise says Mrs. Cosby can give no power to sell Wm. Cosbys land without a Commission of Lunacy being first Issued Mr. Cosby found a Lunatick by a Jury at the County where he lives & an Order from the Lord Chancellor to sell his Estate the money to be Vested in Trustees for his use & Mrs. Cosby not to be Intituled to a farthing during his life as Mr. Wm. Cosby has a third in the lead mines with Mrs. Cosby the Capts. Estate thought it was as well not to advertize them, am Much obliged to you for your Inquiry after my sons had a letter from them on sunday last of the 16 April last your obligding letter was of Great service to them David Dined with admiral a few days before wch. was the first time since he lost his Wife by a private message had from my son she dyed in February last was told the admiral had sent an Express to sir Wm. Baker to make Every thing secure tho she disposed of but £5000 in Legacies & one of that to himself Every thing Else falls to him on Course as the longest liver my son writes he is Very hearty if you have any commands to him as I write often will at any time forward yours am sorry to see by the Papers you are so surrounded with Indians which must be attended with a Great deal of trouble Mrs. Williams & all my Family Joyn one in our humble respects to you wishing you health & success in all your affairs being very respectfully Dear Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant

as Mr. Hansanclever sails so soon have the pleasure to forward this with the deeds mentioned.

CHAS. WILLIAMS

HON: OL. DELANCEY TO SR. WM. JOHNSON.

New York ye 5 June 1765.

DEAR SIR

Lord Adam Gordon is Desirous of Seeing You in his Way to Niagara and as he has not the Pleasure of being Acquainted I have taken the Liberty to Trouble Him with the Delivering this

to Your Hand, and to beg of You to Shew Him the Civility he So Much Deserves and is So Much Your Disposition beleive me Always Dr Sir

Your Most Affectionate Obedient Sert

To Sir William Johnson Bart. Oliver DeLancey

at Johnson Hall

HONBLE. MRS. COSBY TO SR. WM. JOHNSON.

Hampton Court June ye 11 1765.

Sr

I receved Yours from Johnson Hall, March ye 12th 1765 and am glad to find you was well after Your great fatigues, and am sorry my affairs must stil be troublesome to You. but I am sattisfied as Lord Halifax told me, that You whoe act so well for in all things for the Publique, must doe well for me. As for Mr. Delanceys Survey appears exstrydnarey, to be measured at first by Mr. Cosby and leaft by will that number and pay'd in the Secretarys Office. the same number, feas for the same I must hope you will find after a purchase is made, a draw bake cant be. but that you know best. & I should be sorry justice should not not take place.

I should be verry happy if you could Clear things on Your Side, as my Affairs hear are extremley narrow. So beg if possible you will endevour it, if by the land to be sold, & the mine, with the five hundred pounds sterling Mr. Delancey owes, may make me Easy. for I dont care how undersold they be, if I was clear

I write this to you Dear Sr as if I was writing to my Brother. When I goe to Town I will have full & Clear advise, about my Sons lands and will send You word, I must now beg Your forgiveness for the trouble I have and am stil giveing You. I only can asure You none can have a more gratefull sence of Your goodness nor a higher Easteam for You then

Sr Your most

Ld Halifax disired when ever I wrote to you to give his Complits Oblig'd and Obdt humble Servtt G Cosby

what I have had remitt'd from You, was to thousand pounds Sterling.

Duplicat

SIR Wᴹ. JOHNSON TO COMʸ GENL LEAKE.

Johnson-hall July 18. 1765.

Dear Sir,

Mʳ. Byrne delivered me your favour of the 10th Inst & I am Extremely obliged to you for the desire you Express to serve him, & Mʳ Frazier. The reduction of your branch may well be supposed to prevent your good intentions at present, and I dare say if it should hereafter be in your power you will remember him.

I have Just finished Treating with the Shawanese Delaware & mingos, they appear well pleased, & the Settlement of my Department on the proposed system will I am confident prove the only means of Keeping them so.

Mʳ Croghan is now I hope at the *Illinois*, I had a Letter from him from the Scioto River, where the Shawanese delivered up to him Seven French Incendiaries who had been very busy in fomenting the late disturbances, this I consider as a very strong proof of their present pacific disposition as the French are so much esteemed by them, and if we get possession of the *Illinois* it will be a severe blow to the French, & Greatly Contribute to check the Influence & private transactions with the Indians.

I shall be always very Glad to hear from you whenever your leisure will permit, as I am

With Cordial Esteem & Sincere
regard, Dear Sir,
Your most hearty Welwisher
& verry Humble Servant

Robᵗ Leake Esq

Wᴹ Johnson.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson-hall Augst 16th 1765.

Sir

As I have Just heard from Mʳ. Croghan I would not omit giving you the particulars of his Information.

On the 8th of June last he (with his party of abᵗ 14) were attacked on the *Ohio* near the *Wabache* by 80 *Kickapous* & Mascoutens who Killed Two White men, and Three shawanese

Chiefs besides Wounding Mr. Croghan, and all the rest they alledged they did this at the desire of their Fathers (the French) and took him & the survivors prisoners to *Ouiatonon* where meeting with sevl Indians with whom he was acquainted they upbraided the rest for what they had done, which induced them to take care of his Wounds, & shortly after to release him, begging he would use his interest to prevent the *Shawanese*, *Delawares* and *Six Nations* from attacking them in revenge for their behavior ; In short this affair may prove of good consequence & Mr. Croghan was to set forward to the *Illinois*, the 14th Ulto. where he had reason to Expect he should settle all matters.

Mr. Byrne informed me that the Commissaries were to have a Tract of Land each, & has since wrote to me requesting I would remind you of it, & if possible point out some place ; for my part I know none better at present than that part of *N. Hampshire* lately made a part of this Province, the method directed at present for obtaining Indian Lands is both difficult & Expensive, neither was it intended that the free Grants of the Crown should be made in any Quarter within Claim of the Indians. I hope you have had agreable accts. from home I had not a line by the last Packquet wch I am surprised at

I sincerely wish you all happiness, and
am yr. Hearty Freind & Humble Servt.

Robt Leake Esq — Wm. Johnson.

Mr. Williams to Sir Wm. Johnson.

New York 23 Septr 1765

Dear Sir

The Inclosed I reced from Mrs Cosby pr pacqt she writes me She hopes youl Extricate her out off her difficulties with the Company that Bought her Lands As I find her Circumstances will not be able to do it unless you can dispose of some of her lands I wish you may be able to do it but beleive till we hear from her as Mr Jones tells me you must have another Power from her as I wrote her when I inclosed yours I had the Honour to receive was in hopes of a line in answer to mine by Mr Hansan-

clever who told me he had the deeds, & delivered them to you little news but the Changes in the Ministry which youl have in the papers its said Gov^r Moore had hired a merch^t ship to carry over himself & ffamily & was to sail about 15 Aug^t last had a letter from him who said he should hurry over but mentioned no time am in hopes this will find you in health M^r Williams & my ffamily Joyn in our best regards to you & beg youl beleive me at all times with the Greatest respect

Dear Sir

your most obed^t humble Servant

To the Hon^ble Sir William Johnson Bar^t CH^S WILLIAMS

SIR W^M. JOHNSON TO THE HON. M^RS. COSBY.

Johnson Hall Septr 30th 1765.

MADAM

This Letter will be delivered to your hands by my Son whom I Send to England for sometime to acquire some knowledge of the World, and wear off that Rusticity which must accompany the Actions of a Young Man, whose Life has been chiefly spent on the frontiers of *America* & I am persuaded that you and the rest of my friends in London, will afford him any countenance or advice he may stand in need of

The Last Letter I had the honour to Write you was the 12^th of March Last, wherein I informed you that on a Supposition that the Quit-rents, Debts, and Mortgages therein ment^d were to be paid by M^r DeLancey there would be a ballance due to him of £1516.17.2½ Curr^y & that he pressed me to request you would pay these off to Lady Warren.—I Likewise informed you that it was said here that it would be necessary you should take some steps for proving the Insanity of your Son before you could dispose of the other tract. Since which I have seen M^r DeLancey who agrees to purchase that land Likewise, at y^e same price of y^e former provided you take these Steps, or that it appears in the opinion of Council that they are unnecessary. This will doubtless be agreeable to you, and I shall be glad to hear from you thereon.

My Son will be able to inform you of the Success of my Deputy

Mr Croghan in obtaining possession of & a passage to the important Settlement of *Ilinois* on the Mississippi, as for other matters, and party disputes here, You will doubtless be informed of them before this reaches you, & of the Violent & unaccountable Conduct of the Americans, occasioned by the Stamp Act, all which has been Excited by a few pretended patriots & Lawyers in these parts, whose business must decrease from the duties on Law proceedings. The Populace are inflamed have destroyed Houses of Lt Govrs, & other Officers of the Crown, & insulted & threatened persons to such a Degree that the Stamp Officers refuse to act, and where these Commotions will end it is impossible as yet to determine

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO HON. OL. DELANCEY.

Johnson-hall October 9th. 1765.

Dear Sir

I have just received a Letter from Mrs. Cosby respecting your purchase wherein she Expresses her surprise that Land formerly surveyed & left by will, & paid for in the office as a certain quantity, should afterwards turn out so much Less, & that therefore a drawback can't be, however she is determined to do justice, and very sollicitous that I should sell her other Rights in this Country concerning which she promises to send me farther opinion. As you spoke to me when at this place concerning the purchase of the remr. above the German-flatts, & promised to have Mr. Jones's opinion upon it I should be glad to hear whether you have done so & what are your present resolutions, being very desirous to settle her affairs as soon as possible.

HON: OL. DELANCEY TO SIR WM. JOHNSON.

New York ye 26 Octo. 1765.

Dear Sir

I this Day Rec'd your favour of the 10th Inst advising your Letter from Mrs Cosby respecting My Purchase of the Land on the North Side of the Mohawk River which she is surprized should turn out so much Less which I beleive must hapen by the first

Surveyor not Taking the course of the River or Indeed not Giving Himself The Trouble to Survey any of the Lines I made no Doubt She would be willing to do Justice I am still Determined to make the Purchase of the other side but find she cant make a Title for the same as it is now circumstanced During Her Sons life nor Afterwards unless Lady Augustus and y^e^ Duke of Grafton first Convey to Her their Right of Reversion to W^m^ Cosbys Lands as one of them is Heir to His Estate after His Death and She has no title in Them I should imagine She could easily Prevail on Them to convey their Right of Reversion to Her and than I would Purchase on that Title I thought I had wrote to you before of This but cant find I did.

I have Directed M^r^. John R Bleecker to Survey S^r^ Peters Patents at Chuctenunda and Lay them out in Lotts of 100 Acres each, he seems to apprehend some Interuption from the Indians in such case I beg you^l^ Prevent their giving any Trouble.

As Several Persons live on that Tract by leases from you I shall want the Copys of Those Leases to give Directions in Laying out their Lotts and be pleased to send me an Ac^t^. of what money you have Rec'd from Any of them that in Stating Their Ac^ts^. I may give them Credit for such sums I shall esteem it as a favour you^d^ send me any Intelligence about this Land as I propose settling the whole and at what Rent I should put them at for 21 years after allowing 3 years free of Rent.

If you Think Proper and will Give a Release of any Claim on S^r^. Peters Heirs for Past Accouts to y^e^ time they were settled by M^r^. Chamber & Nicholl I will deliver your Bonds to any Person you Desire which seems to be Lady Warrens Intention and I shall wait no longer about it as soon as I begin to give out the Leases I shall send you one for Miln^s^ Tract you^l^ Please to Lett me know at what part you Expect it. I am Always Most Truly

D^r^ Sir, Your Most Obedient, and Most Humble Serv^t^.

OLIVER DELANCEY.

To S^r^ W^m^ Johnson Bar^t^.

Endorsed

N York Oct^r^ 26^th^ 1765

From the Honble Oliver DeLancey Esq^r^.

SIR W^M. JOHNSON TO HON: OL. DELANCEY.

Johnson hall 7th Novr. 1765

DEAR SIR

I have just received your favour of the 26th ulto, and cannot acct for the delays my Letters have lately met with to most of my Correspondents.

I shall acquaint M^rs Cosby with that part of your Letter respecting her, and I hope she will take the steps you recommend so that you may be able to make the purchase.

In answer to your proposal concerning the Bonds I think myself obliged to speak plainly & candidly to you,—You know my Connection with *Sir Peter*, the friendship that subsisted between us, & the reasonable Expectations I had of sharing some part of his fortune, of this his former Wills will be a farther proof, the assistance he gave me in the way of Credit &c^a was I believe you will allow no more than I might have Expected, since it was at his particular persuasion and even intreaty that I came to this Country, when he made me very large promises as his Correspondence will shew, & which is likewise well known to several yet living at *N Yorke* &c^a Whatever motives he might have had for making the several charges against me, which appeared at his decease, *I* had no reason to think they were intended to be considered in any other light, than as Checks upon me to render me diligent & attentive to my buisness, but not as Sums for which I was actually to be accountable afterwards & this he intimated to me when he took my bonds; but on his death I was given to understand otherwise, & thereupon I agreed in opinion with all my friends that I should bring *my* acct^s against the Estate & you know on a Reference they were Exam^d & approved of by Men of Reputation and Character, these accts will at any time appear to be fair and honest, and I can Swear to them whenever occasion requires, nay more, I can aver that many Articles are therein omitted which I had a very good right to charge, but neglected making Entrys of them, not apprehending there would ever have been a necessity for it, from all which I must observe that I cannot consistent with the Interest of my family give up my Just demand on his Estate with^t a proper recompence every Article of which

is as fair and Clear as any brought against me, with this addition that they can be proved upon Oath, after this declaratn it cannot be Expected that I shod relinquish my claim & indeed the only reason that prevented me from applying repeatedly for this money was my regard for the Memory of so near a Relation, and my Respect for those he has left behind, & that I have from time to time Expected they would have in some measure reimbursed, for the ballance which as stated ammounted to £93–7–11½ Y. C. in the year 1751

The same reasons which prevented me from giving them the Trouble of Sollicitation, or taking any other steps for obtaing my Just demands induces me at this time to make them a proposal, that in case they will give me *Miln's* tract which cost *Sir Peter* but a Trifle & is now not worth more than half my demand I shall give them a genl Release of all Claim upon the Estate, and I hope you will do me the Justice to believe that I have no other motive whatsoever for making this offer, but what arises solely from my Regard for his heirs, & their Connection with me, which from my own natural disposition would prevent me from taking any other measures unless reduced to an absolute necessity of so doing, and I hope the plain honest manner in which I have represented the affair will induce them to Comply with so reasonable a proposal.

Should the Indians give any disturbance to the Surveyor I shall with pleasure use all my Endeavors to accomodate the matter, & make them easy, and I hope by next post to be able to send you the Leases &a with such information as you require

I shall push the affair you wrote upon to Mrs Cosby, & shall do all in my power to obtain that Tract for you, or to serve you in any other shape in my power, and you may be assured that I am,

The Honble Ol. DeLancey Esqr

HON. OL. DELANCEY TO SIR WM. JOHNSON.

New York ye 25 Decm. 1765.

Dear Sir

I recd your favour of ye 7th Novr Last which I Should have ansd much Sooner but the Turbulent Situation of Affairs here has

prevented me from doing almost every kind of Bussiness No more than you, can I account for the Delays of Letters Mine are frequently Detained and Sometimes Come ready open'd to My hand.

I hope you[l] Soon have an Answer from Mrs. Cosby. m

Your Answer to My Proposal about your Bonds to S[r]. Peter Warren is now before me and I readily acknowledge the circumstances of friendship that were or ought to have been between you and what you might have reasonably expected from his Good Inclinations to you Who had Influence over him in Ireland I cant Say at the time of his Death, It could not be his Lady who was in England and was not So well considered as in his former Wills I am only an Attorney & must Act with Security and realy have it not in my Power to do more than I offered in my last to you the Alteration is wholly between you & your Relations and for me to do more would be improper I have Carefully Looked over your Account with S[r]. Peters Estate and had not I thought my Proposal Equitable I never Should have made it As to the conveying Miln[s] Tract to you it is at Present impracticable as no conveyance can be given untill His youngest Daughter is of Aage and if you approve of it I will Trasmitt a Copy of your Letter to Lady Warren which be Pleased to Signify to me by your next Though I Should look on your (Saying the Plain Honest Manner in Which You Represent the Affair will induce them to comply with So Reasonable a Proposal) as consenting I Should I am much Obliged to you for your assurance of endeavouring to make the Indians quiet Should they Give the Surveyor any Disturbance I imagine no Danger My Request proceeeded from a Surmise of his.

I wish you & yours the Compliments of the Season and assure you of my friendship & Regard and that I always am

D[r] Sir

Your most Obedient & most

To S[r]. William Johnson Bar[t]. Humble Sev[t].

at Johnson Hall OLIVER DELANCEY

Albany County endorsed

Decbr 25[th] 1765

OLIVER DELANCEY Esq[rs]

Letter.

SIR W^M. JOHNSON TO THE HON^BLE O. DELANCEY.

Johnson-hall, December 23d 1765.

DEAR SIR

I have had the favour of your Last and sincerely thank you for the friendship you have Expressed for me, and I make no doubt of your settling the affair if impowered so to do.—Altho' I did not write my last with a View to its going any farther, I cannot have the least objection to your communicating such part of it as you Judge necessary to the heirs of Sir Peter Warren as in my last I fairly tho' Concisely stated the Case between us, for on the one hand I should be unwilling to enlarge upon my reasonable Expectations from my deceased uncle and on the other very loth to give grounds for doubting their Good intentions with regard to my being in some measure satisfied a ballance so justly due, concerning which I have not given them the Trouble of even a Letter for many Years.—

Be assured it gives me no Concern, neither does it abate my affection for my Uncle, or his Remains that he did not finally consider me as I was Taught to Expect, he was certainly at Liberty to do what he pleased with his Fortune and if from its Largeness he had considered me It could not have encreased the Tyes of Nature.—I do not suspect that I had any Enemys about him of my own family, as they did not partake of any benefit from his Last Will, nor can I believe the family into which he married would concern themselves about it. Mine are well satisfied with the Case & that they can be intitled to nothing where so large a ballance appeared agt his Charges, they will therefore without delay send over proper Acquittance, & I am only sorry that it is thought necessary for obtaining my Bonds whilst such a ballance is in my favour.—

You may recollect that in your former Letter you proposed "that if I would give a Release of any Claim on S^r Peters Heirs for past Acct^s to the time they were settled &ca You wo^d deliver up my Bounds." Now you know my Bonds can be of no use since the Settlem^t neither can I agree to that proposal with such a ballance in my favor, which ball^ce is indeed short of the Debt due to me having omitted sev^l small Charges & one large Article,

Lady Warren had which I wd not particularize & Attest upon Oath, as I can all the rest. I flatter my self my acct can't be doubted & I dare say you intend the proposal for the best, but if you were possessed of all the necessary papers or thoroughly acquainted with the whole Affair you would readily agree with me that I cannot in reason or Justice accept of it.—

The proposal I made concerng Milers Tract I shall adhere to if they approve of it, as it will be of more Value to me than to any other person.—

I shall do all in my power with Mrs Cosby for Settling the Affair between You & her to your Satisfaction and shall be very glad if I can bring it about Agreeable to my inclinations on your behalf.

HON: MRS. COSBY TO SIR WM. JOHNSON.

London Feb ye 7th 1766.

Sr

I received yours, by the hands of Your Son, whoe was a great sattisfaction to me, as in every respect appears to give you happyness in him. I dissird he would look on me as an Old Aunt, & for advise or introduction I should be as hartey as if to my owne son.

You give me sattisfaction that my affairs may be settiled, on Your side I have had advise & tis in me to dispose of the lands, & will indemnefie Mr Delancey or whoe ever purchas's under my hand from anny hazard what ever. so commend it to your goodness to act for me, as cant fail of pleasing me. I am sorry for the disturbances you have I can asure you we are hear in as great clamours, pray God things may end well, pertikculers you will have from better hands. I have Ruemetism in my hands can but just write this and to asure you none can have more sence of your goodness to me, & the oblegation I have to you then her whoe is with best wishes to You and Yours an

Affectionat frind
and Obliged humble
Servtt
G. Cosby.

HON: OL. DELANCEY TO SIR WM. JOHNSON.

New York ye. 15 June 1766.

Dear Sir

I recd your Favour of ye 3d Instant yesterday in which you say you had Rec'd a Letter from Mrs Cosby Relative to Her Concerns here and that she has taken advice — that it is in Her to Dispose of the Lands and that she will indemnify whoever shall Purchase In answer to which I have to say that by the Advice I have taken the Power is not in Her During Wm Cosbys Life and that an Indemnification from Her Cannot at Her Time of Life, be a Sufficient Security to me for the Risque I should run from the Heirs of William, should She Die before Him it would be agreeable to my wishes to make the Purchase and will whenever I can have a secure Title I should be Glad you would Advise Her to Take the Opinion of Eminent Council Wether the Estate Bequeathed to William by His Late Father, and he now a Lunatic, can be invested in Mrs Cosby his mother unless conveyed to Her by William before His Lunacy I am Greatly obliged to you for your Friendship in the offer but must beg to postpone the Purchase until the Title be Clearly in Her I always am

Dear Sr Your Faithfull & Affectionte

Humble Sert

Oliver DeLancey.

To Sr Wm Johnson
at
Johnson Hall
Albany

FROM MESSRS. VROOMAN, GLEN & DUNCAN TO SIR WM. JOHNSON.

AUTHORIZING HIM TO PURCHASE 100,000 ACRES OF INDIAN LANDS.

Schenectady, Decemr. 24th 1766.

Sir,

This morning Garlock arrived, and on Examining find it much as you observe, from Intelligence of Mr. Fry and the Indians, but in order that no stop may be on our part, to get the affair fix'd with the Indians as you may find occasion to proceed, wee at a venture will purchase all the good Land on the back of yours,

between the two Creeks, that can be found in one body not exceeding a Hundred Thousand Acres & will pay the Indians for the same in proportion to what they lately rec'd for other Lands, having regard to the great distance, this is from the River as mention'd by us formerly, which wee intirely leave to you, as likewise we declar'd before.

Otherwise we will extend from Sarah McGinnis Corner on your Line about seven miles, as farr as Mr. Vrooman ran for you, to run from thence a north easterly line, about Eight, Ten, or Twelve miles, meaning as farr as the good land continues, from which period to run a line across to both Creeks parallel with your Rear Line, then down or along both the Creeks Including them to your north east & north west corners.

This wee think will enable you to make an end, at least an agreement with the Indians, which shall be allways acknowledged as a very Particular favour done to

Sir

Your Ever oblig'd and most humble Servants.

Isaac Vrooman
Jno. Glenn Junr.
John Duncan.

To the Honble Sir Willm. Johnson
Bant. &c, &c, &c, Johnson's
Hall.

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO GENL. GAGE.

Johnson hall Jany 2d 1767

Dear Sir

Since I had Last the pleasure of Writing to you which was on the 12th ulto I have received Letters from Niagara informing me of the burning of one of the Vessells at Navy Island on 30th Novr last which was at first ascribed to the Indians, but the Comissary with others went thither the next morng to View the remains and made a Report to the Commandg Officer in writing from which and from the substance of his Letter it appears that a party of Men had set out before day Light on that day for Fort Erie and it being very Cold and the Crossing tedious had probably kindled a fire

wch was it seems usual & which they did not take sufficient pains to Extinguish, there does not appear any probability of the Indians having done this, or that they should destroy one Vessel when they might as easily have burned both, this is all as yet come to my knowledge concerning the affair, a few days ago I Read a Letter of the Septr from Mr Croghan then at the Ilinois Very unwell, as were the Greatest part of the Garrison only 3 Officers and 50 Men fit for duty, his state of health was so bad that he would be obliged to return by way of *N Orleans* He arrived there the 20th of August, & soon after had the Satisfaction of accomodating matters with 8 nations there assembled divided into 22 tribes, who shewed the greatest surprise at his Speech, and declared that they had been greatly imposed upon by the French, but would for the future avoid being Led astray,—the French who endeavored to obstruct the Meeting had interest enough to prevent Three Nations from attending, but being undeceived by the rest they came afterwards and appeared equally satisfied, all which he greatly attributes to the assiduity and Good behavior of the Six Nation and other Chiefs that accompanied him He adds that Col Read, and himself found it indispensably necessary to incurr some farther Expences there especially as he had been compelled to make some presents at *Scioto.*

I have Lately received Two Letters from Lord Shelburne concerning the Conduct of the Frontier Inhabitants and the redress of Grievances, in one of them I have been honored with his Majestys approbation of all my late proceedings and informed that the plan is under Serious Consideration.—

As Mr Croghan takes no notice of any Large body of Troops ascending the Mississipi I imagine that part of my late intelligence was without foundation, as for the rest touching their Secret Artifices, Belts, Messages, presents &ca it is very strongly confirmed from Every Quarter and cannot be doubted.

I most sincerely Wish you and family the Compliments of the Season, as I am,

with the greatest Esteem

D. Sir &ca

Genl Gage

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson-hall Jany 15th 1767.

DEAR SIR

I have received your favor of the 29th ultº and had the pleasure of writing to you on the 2d of this Month concerning Mr Croghans proceedings at the Ilinois, since which I am informed he arrived at Philadelphia in a bad State of health so that I have not as yet received the particulars of his Transactions.

I am glad to hear that Mr Maturin has laid by the money you mention, and hope some opportunity may be found to send it up when the Sledding is good at present we have little or no Snow hereabouts, I return you by this opportunity the Receipt signed agreeable to your directions: The French were doubtless at the bottom of the Affair in West Florida, as they are of all other disturbances on the Continent. by Letters I have Just received from Comy Hay at Detroit I find some fresh instances of it. he incloses me Copys of Letters by which I find that the french Traders about *Wabache*, and the *Miamis* are doing all they can to set up the Inds to resent our not permitting Traders amongst them, that one *Capucin* who has been very busy in Sending Messages to the Indians told Major Smallman he would trade where he pleased in defiance of any person or Government whatever and that there are now at Miamis, *Lorrain*, *LaMotte*, *Potdevin*, *Capasin*, *Bartholomi*, *Bergen*, & Richarville all Traders without passes, that the Traders do as they please who have no passes, & leave Detroit in defiance of what is said to them. That *Huron Andrew* a very faihtfull Indian well known has delivered up a belt (now in my Custody) from *Rochblave* a French Officer at *Misore* opposite the *Kuskuskies* to the Inds abt Detroit with an Artfull Message one part of which was that he was glad to hear they were in peace and Quietness but concluded on the other half of the Belt with desiring them to remember "That the french have been their father a Long while and that in a Short time he believed they would Quarrel with the English." that the Shawanese had recd a Larger Belt on which more was said & that *Babie* was to receive and forward all belts and Messages that passed between him and the Indians.

L[t] Hay has Likewise sent me a Copy of a Court of Enquiry held at Detroit, Nov[r] 12th concerning one Abbot a Trader there without a pass on whom Huron Andrew had an Order from M[r] Croghan for *Lb* 100 W[t] of Lead, & 2 Q[r] Casks of powder, which on being weighed in other Steelyards fell short the first *Lb*, 20 w[t] the second 5 *Lb* which Steel Yards being Examd. by the Court & Compared with others were proved to be false as before, that h refused to give bond for his future behaviour & on being desir not to Trade, Said he would Continue to trade till turned out o his House and that he desired nothing better, that the Com Officer placed a Centry on his House & that he did not make u the W[t] to the Ind[n] till compelled to do so That he since talks of Coming down the Country, perhaps to commence a suit. That Indians are daily abused but that there is no preventing it without proper authority.—This Abbot is a Trader from the province without a pass. I could wish a proclamat[n]. was issued Giving Notice to the Traders to apply for passes otherwise not to be passed out of the Government, and should be Glad you would remind S[r] H. Moore of the necessity there is for it.—I am sorry to See that differences are Likely to be between the Comds Officers and Comp[ys] at some places, by what I can find its owing to the Old Stands Orders respecting the duty of the former, and wch were given out before the Appointment of Commissaries was projected, as the Latter is now approved of at home, and the rest of the plan by a Second Letter I have from L[d] Shelburne is Likely to be so the Comiss[s] will certainly be of no use unless supported in the Authority proposed for them over Indians and Traders, which is intended cannot interfere with that of an officer but will Save the Latter an infinity of trouble—the Office of Comiss[y] was first projected by the Ministry, and his powers by them particularly ascertained, which cannot be executed should the Comds Officer interfere in Matters of Trade and Traders &ca or should he fail of giving him a reasonable Support when demanded. besides should the latter prove the case the Traders will disregard the Com[y] whc is to Inspect them, & he will soon Lose all respect with the Indians, which are the Two prin[l] Objects of his Appointment—I take the liberty of mentioning this not as what has happened but what

y, and from my inclination to prevent disputes arising where either the Officer or Comsy should be fond of stretching their authority Assigning their Separate dutys will prevent both, and I flatter myself you are persuaded that I have not nor can I have any other motive for the Liberty I take in offering my thoughts hereon.

As Michilimackinac Seems now to be our principal Mart of Trade and that for sevl reasons it should be well and Duly Inspected I think a Comissy there very necessary, and shall be glad of your thoughts about it, which if agreable to mine I shall remove one of the Comissys to that place early in the Spring and appoint another in his Stead

I am &ca

GENL. GAGE TO SIR WM. JOHNSON.

New York Janry. 19th 1767.

Dear Sir

I am favored with your Letter of the 2d. Inst: The burning of the Sloop has been reported to me from Niagara, which might have been done either by strolling Indians or others Soldiers Sailors or Traders either by Accident or Design, for anything that can be discovered about it. Had either a Party of Soldiers or Sailors been left with the Vessel, she could not have been lost in this Manner. You will hear of Mr. Croghan's arrival at this Place and have an Account from him of all his Transactions, As for the Trade of the Ilinois, and in general of the Mississippi, we may dispose of some Manufactures there, but whilst Skins and Furs bear a high Price at New Orleans, no Peltry gained by our Manufactures, will ever reach Great: Britain; And if our Traders do not return with the produce of their Trade to the Northward Provinces, by way of the Ohio or the Lakes, it will not answer to England to be at Much Expence about the Mississippi. Mr. Croghan has incurred a very great Expence in this Tour to the Ilinois, of which he is now giving in his Account.

Capt. Maturin sent you by Capt. Stevenson the sum of £776. 4. 0. which I hope will get safe to you, and has paid some of your Draughts.

My Family join me in thanks to you for your kind Remembrance, and in wishing a series of happy years. And I am with great Regard,

Dear Sir,
Your most obedient,
humble Servant,
THOS. GAGE.

Sir Wm. Johnson Bart.

THE SAME TO THE SAME

New York Janry. 25th. 1767.

DEAR SIR,

I am favored with your's of the 15th Inst with the Receipt you was pleased to sign, Mr. Croghan is here and just setting out for Philadelphia, as you will have heard from him, I need not mention his Transactions. The Temporary Receipt given by Mr. Wharton will now be cancelled and returned to him.

From all I can pick up, out of the Many accts. received from all Parts concerning the Ilinois, and the Mississippi in general, very little Benefit is likely to arise to Great Britain from the Trade thereof. Some British Manufactures may possibly be disposed of, but as long as Skins and Furrs bear a high Price at New-Orleans, they will never be brought to a British Market. The Indian Trade in general from the observations which I have made, will always go with the Stream; and the whole will either go down the St. Lawrence or Mississippi Rivers. I don't find that the Furr Trade in these Colonys is at all increased Since the Reduction of Canada.

I am quite sensible of the Irregular Behavior of the Traders, and have intimated to his Majesty's Secretary of State what I told the Board of Trade four or five years ago; that they must be restrained by Law, and a Judicial Power invested in the Officers Commanding at the Posts, to see such Law put in Force. And without this, Regulations may be made, but they will never be observed. As for the Traders from the Ilinois I have given orders to seize them and their Merchandize whenever it can be done, but you will know the Difficulty of this as well as Myself. If the

Entrance of the Ohio and Ilinois Rivers are shut up by Posts, it will prevent those Traders getting into our Country. And this is the only Benefit that I can see that we shall gain by possessing the Ilinois Country; unless that is done, it is better to abandon it. The Traders whom you mention to be at the Miamis are all French Names, I shall transmit them to Gov^{r}. Carleton and to Colonel Reed at Fort-Chartres, they must belong either to Canada or the Ilinois.

I know of no Standing Orders that can occasion any Dispute between the Officers Commanding at the Posts and the Commissarys, If each chooses to keep to their own spheres, and not interfeie with each others Business. I have before wrote to the Posts concerning this Matter. If People are disposed to have Disputes it will be difficult to prevent them, but I shall do all I can towards it.

Michillimakinak seems to be the most Material Post we have, and certainly more necessary for a Commissary than any other.

Sir Henry Moore shall be acquainted with your Desire concerning the Traders being obliged to take Passes.

Cap^{t}. Maturin will pay M^{r}. Byrns the whole Ballance remaining due upon your Account, which will not amount to quite so much as the Sum, which you desire may be paid to him.

I am with great Regard
Dear Sir,
Your most obedient
humble Servant,
THO^{S}. GAGE.

S^{r}. W^{m}. Johnson Bar^{t}.
Johnson Hall.

P. S. I inclose some Letters for the Posts, which I beg of you to forward when you meet an opportunity. It is reported that all the Traders who came this year to Missilimakinak have been permitted to ramble wherever they chose.

T: G:

CAPT MATURIN TO SIR WM JOHNSON.

New York January 28th 1767

Sir,

Mr Burns will deliver you the Sum of Seven hundred, Sixty Six, pounds, One Shilling and Seven pence N: York Currency, which together with the Sum before forwarded to you by Captn Stevenson, which I had the honor to advise you of, makes up the whole of your Acct of Disbursements sent some time since to the General. The inclosed Sketch will show you the different payments that have been made.

I herewith enclose you a Receipt for the whole Sum, which you'll Be pleased to return to The General, and then all the small receipts will be cancelled. I have the honor to be,

Sir, You most Obedient

Sir Wm. Johnson Bt humble Servant

G. Maturin.

Sir William Johnson Bart

1766.	Dr	
Decemr 30th	To Cash paid His Draft in favor of Wm Darlington...	£398. 6. 3
1767	To Ditto " " Thompson & Alexander	180. 0. 0
January 16.	To Cash sent by Captain Stevenson 28th Regt.....	1776. 4. 0
27	To Do sent by Mr Burne.....	766. 1. 7
		£3120.11.10
	Cr	
	By amt of Disbursements on Account of the Indians..	£3120.11.10

SIR WM JOHNSON TO GENL GAGE.

Johnson hall Jany 29th 1767

Dear Sir

I have had the favor of your Letter of the 19th Inst at the same time I received another from Mr Croghan, with a General Account of his Transactions, & informing me that his bad state of health would not permit him to send me the Whole till his return to Philadelphia, he has again renewed his desire signified to me in April of resigning, and is very sollicitous to resign, and have somebody put in his place. I have for the last time advised him

to think farther about it, and indeed I should be at some loss if he pursued his inclinations from his long acquaintance and influence amongst the Indians in his Deputation, for it is such people only who are best calculated for that service, but he seems very uneasy and without assigning more than I formerly mentioned appears determined. I know he was greatly affected at the Slanders of some persons in Pensylvania sometime ago, when he declared his inclination to resign as soon as he returned from the Illinois. I must do him the justice to say that he has ever been ready to offer his Service wherever it was necessary and that he has formerly suffered many losses on these occasions, neither have I ever been able to find out that he was interested, however this may be I shall beg the favor of your advice and direction touching his request, as I know not whether he has taken the Liberty of mentioning it to you.

I am entirely of your opinion concerning the Trade &c by way of Missisipi whilst the traders find better Markets at N Orleans &c, but I apprehend it might be remedied by Confining the Northern Traders to the posts, and if *La Baye, & Miami's*, were reestablished the Ind^{s} would soon resort there in great numbers and the Furrs would return to the Northward, but as it would not well answer those Trading at & about the Missisipi to send theirs by any other way than that River, some restrictions might I imagine be fallen upon to prevent the French from Engrossing it, and if proper Steps Could be taken to direct the Channel of Trade in West Florida, where the French are so well supplied with goods, N Orleans would not Long be the Mart in that Quarter, tho' I own this appears a difficult task as each Province has a peculiar Interest which must often interfere with the General good of the Whole.

I have had a Letter from Capt Maturin concerning the Cash, and another from Capt Stevenson who tells me it is in his hands, & I shall send the Receipt by next apportunity.

M^{r} Croghan has represented the Case of the Indian Deputys who accompanied him to the Ilinois to whose Services he was greatly indebted, and who lost their hunting season thereby, I cannot but recommend this to your Consideration, as a reward for

their behavior and an incitement to others to act in like manner, whatever is ordered for them may be given them at Fort Pitt;— I wish the Services lately performed at the Ilinois may appear adequate to the expense, the amount of which I am not acquainted with but I suppose you are furnished with the particulars—

I have only further to assure you of the perfect Regard with which I am

Gen[l] Gage. Dear Sir

GEN. GAGE TO SIR W[M]. JOHNSON.

New York Febry. 8th. 1767.

Dear Sir,

I have received yours of the 29th ul[mo]: M[r]. Croghan has intimated here his Design of quitting the Service; but I have heard no other Reason given for it but that he does not find it answer; and that he could do better for himself in another situation.

No better Method occurs to me to prevent the French from interfering with our Trade, or our own Traders from carrying their Furs and Skins down the Mississippi, than to forbid all kinds of Merchandize going up the Ohio or Ilinois Rivers, and all Ships from going down those Rivers; and unless Posts are erected on convenient spots near the Junction of those two Rivers with the Mississippi, with orders to the above Purpose, the Ilinois will be of little use. At present you can only say that there is a Fort, which may give us some superiority with respect to the Savages; at an enormous Expence; but little or no service as to the Trade. The French would then have no way left to come into our Country, but by the Wisconsin River high up the Mississippi which a Post on the River Renard a little beyond the Bays might also prevent. To erect as many Posts as the Trade would demand, I fear would be very difficult as Lake Superior alone would require three or four. Whether the Indians are spirited up by the Traders; or it is their natural attachment to old Customs, and the ease they found in getting their necessarys at home, without going so farr for them, I can't say; but they seem every where averse to the Regulations of trading at the Posts only; especialy those

who are at a Distance from the Posts, and desire Traders to be sent to them.

What you think proper to be done with the Indian Deputys shall be done, in such manner as you shall direct. Mr. Croghan's acctˢ: have been inspected settled and paid, I will desire Captᵗ. Maturin to send you a sketch of them for your Information.

I am with great Regard
Dear Sir,
Your most obedient
humble servant,

Srᵣ. Wᵐ. Johnson. Thoˢ. Gage.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

New York Febry. 17th. 1767.

Sir

The bearer of this is Major Gorham who by His Majestys desire (as communicated to me in the inclosed Letter from the Duke of Richmond) was to be appointed Superintendant for Indian Affairs in Accadie, but as I thought this appointment would interfere with you, you being Superintendant for all Indian Affairs in the whole Northern District of America, I took the Liberty to say as much to the Secretary of State, and that if Major Gorham did Act, that it should be immediately under you, either as a Deputy or Commissary as you might judge proper, which would prevent any clash in Your Department. In answer to which I have by this Packet received a Letter from my Lord Shelburn who is Sensible of the Objections I pointed out to the Duke of Richmond and approves of the methods I proposed. I have therefore sent Major Gorham to you, in order that you may Settle with him the Indian Affairs for the Accadie Department, and that he may receive such Orders and Directions from you as you may judge proper for the Good of His Majestys Service

I am Sir
Your most Obedient
humble Servant

Srᵣ. Wᵐ. Johnson Barᵗ. Thoˢ. Gage.

SIR Wᴹ. JOHNSON TO GEN. GAGE.

Johnson-hall Feby 24th. 1767

Dear Sir

I have had the favor of yours of the 8th inst with the inclosed Sketch of Mʳ. Croghans Expences, from whom I have not heard since my last to him.

Capt Johnson who goes to N York to attend the hearing of the affair of the Wappingers agreable to Lord Shelburnes Letters to me will mention my thoughts concerning what is necessary for the Indian Deputys that accompanied Mʳ. Croghan.

There are good Authorities for proving that sevˡ. Traders have prompted the Indians to desire the Trade at discretion throughout their Country, nevertheless there may be some Nations to the Northward who are so wedded to their Antient Customs, and so Circumstanced as to require it of themselves, but this is only the particular case of those Northern Indˢ. mentioned in a former Letter. I am happy in finding my opinion perfectly Correspondent with yours respecting the Trade by *Mississipi* and the establishing some Necessary posts at the Junction of the principal Rivers which fall into it. The Communicatⁿ Westward from *La Baye* is of importance, and the Indians will readily agree to the erecting a post there, I am sensible that it will not be practicable to erect posts at every place required but if the Trade of L. Superior is excepted, the posts now held, & those you have mentioned will be sufficiently Convenient for the rest.

I am &ca.

His Excellᶜʸ
Genˡ Gage.

GENL GAGE TO SIR Wᴹ. JOHNSON.

New York March 9th. 1767.

Dear Sir.

I have received your Letter of the 24ᵗʰ of Febʳʸ by Capᵗ: Johnson who has been employed since his arrival in attending the Council, on the affair of the Wappingers which is pretty near over. There is little for me to answer in that Letter, and I have only

now to acquaint you, that Major Goreham is returned well satisfied with his Interview with you at Johnson Hall, and will proceed to Nova-Scotia on his Duty as soon as you shall send him his appointment and Instructions; which matters I leave entirely to you, and I shall only furnish him with orders to the Military Commanders to give him all the assistance he shall require in the execution of his Employment. If you send your Letters for the Major under my Cover they will be forwarded to him.

I am with great Regard,
Dear Sir,
your most obedient,
humble Servant,

Sr. Wm Johnson Bart. Thos Gage.

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO GENL. GAGE.

Johnson-Hall April: 1st 1767.

Dear Sir

Herewith I enclose you my Acco^{t} of pay & Disbursem^{ts} incurred in the Department to the 25th. ult^{o}. for which I hope to be favored with your warrant as soon as convenient.

Cap^{t} Johnson who arrived here the 26th has given me your Sentiments on the sev^{l}. Subjects recommended to him—I am fully sensible of the difficulties which at present attend the Execution of his Majestys Orders respecting Indian Affairs and that both the Officers and Commissaries are in many cases liable to be called to an acco^{t} for their Support thereof whenever they go down the Country, at the same time I do not See how Affairs can be carried on unless something can be fallen upon for remedying the Abuses & Disorders which now are, and which will increase till the Offenders find themselves under proper control, as a farther proof of which I have just received Letters from *Fort Pitt* acquainting me that all the Traders have left that post and are gone amongst the Ind^{s}. In defiance of the Commissary who used all the means in his power to prevent them and applied to the Comd^{g} Officer for Assistance for that purpose but could not obtain it, to remedy which I know nothing more effectual than for the sev^{l} Governors to put

the bonds of such Traders in Suit, and to mention the place of Trade in their passes in which case I submit it to you whether a Commandg officer may not on receipt of your Orders, without risque to himself assist the Comy in preventing the Traders from exceeding the Latitude prescribed them, and for the preventing any disputes between Comdg Officers and Commissaries, the Regulations of Trade and Indian Affairs to be transmitted to the posts & confined as intended to the Latter who should report to the former all Material Occurrences and be Assisted by him in the manner I have mentioned, with sufficient Quarters for the Comy, Interpreter, and Smith, as also firewood & provisions and I am of opinion it would create a saving in other Articles to the Crown, if the Comy was permitted to give out to the Indians in most Want some of the damaged provisions, the Onondagas have now sent me a Deputation representing that they are in Great Want at present, and if there are any damaged provisions at Ontario I am certain some wod be very well applied to relieve the Necessities of that Nation.

If I have proposed more than you see fitting, or than is practicable I err thro' a desire of rendering the Indians contented, & of enabling the Indn, Officers to discharge the Trust reposed in them, in the most effectual manner, and I persuade myself that you will View it in no other point of Light, but kindly give me your farther Sentiments hereon.—Amongst other Letters I have just received one an Extract of wch I Judged it necessary to inclose to you respecting the intentions of the Virginians to form a Large Settlement near Monongahala. I am alarmed for the Safety of these imprudent people, but much more so on accot. of the public tranquility wch must be disturbed should they attempt to Execute their illjudged plan, and as it evidently tends to renew our Troubles, I Wish it may be in your power to prevent so dangerous a procedure, and that the Colonists may see how deeply they are interested in putting a Stop to it in which case I hope they will make a requisition of Troops if (as I suppose) they cannot otherwise Check so Lawless a people.—I am induced to be of opinion that where any set of people are taking measures which may Affect the whole & which must in their consequences be

productive of a War they should doubtless be prevented by Order, & by the forces of the Crown, should the Colonists be so blind as to disregard it, or the American Govts, want powers to reduce their people to order. I observe this from a Conviction that a War must be the consequence of these transactions and that Great Britain must in that case be at the Expense of its blood and Treasure to no small amount before the Indians are brought to reason.—I heartily wish that the Government may be sensible of the necessity there is for some more vigorous Measures which by ensuring peace to the Colonies will produce so many advantages to itsself.

Major Gorham has applied to me for a Draft on you for £300 Ster to carry on the Affairs in his Deputation, and also represented the necessity for provisions to be had when Inds, are on public business, the latter I think a reasonable request and as to the Cash I can have no objection to giving him the Draft if you approve it. This Leads me to observe how disagreeably I am circumstanced on the Cash accot. The Officers in the Department are not monied Men, they are under the necessity of incurring some Expenses the particulars of which they may not from their situation be able to transmit within suffict time for my Accots altho' the Draft may come upon me at a time when I must either advance my own money, or injure their future credit. These have so distressed me so often that I perceive the necessity there is for my having Some Cash always in hand to answer Exigences, and relieve me from the disagreeable necessity, of taking up money for the public Service on my private accot as I have been often compelled to do, I know I need not to enlarge upon this Subject if it is in your power to remedy it and I am confident you will excuse my representation of it.

Mr. Croghan is now here and is to continue in his office, he will set out in a few days and wait upon you to receive your Commands for Fort Pitt whither he proceeds immediately.

I have (chiefly in consequence of my sevl. Letters from the Ministry) drawn up some necessary regulations. for Trade & the Commissys duty such as may I apprehend be enforced among others I have left it to the discretion of the Commissy to the Northward to admit a few

such Traders as he may find absolutely necessary to go to the Winterings North of Lake Huron & the Ottawa Rivr. from the Severity of the Winter there, but this indulgence not to be Extended to the Southwd, As the Traders seem bent on this & that I don't see how they can be prevented I Judged this a necessy article, but must beg the favor of your directions on that head.

Genl Gage

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson-hall, April 3d. 1767.

Dear Sir

Altho' I have wrote you pretty fully by this opportunity I could not refuse Mr. Croghan my sanction in favor of his accots. herewith sent.

He apprehends that the Malice of some of his Enemys may have prejudiced him both in your opinion and mine wch. he declares has hurt him much; and 'tis to this Cause that he expressed a desire to resign his employment, a mistake which I have cleared up, but at the same time he is extremely desirous to know the Authors of so many bad reports concerning his Conduct, and in fact I believe he has been used very ill, and traduced at a time when he was doing his utmost for the service. The accots. I now enclose are partly Expences which he should have given in on his return from N Orleans, the rest are part of his acct. of Losses in the Service for some time past, the whole of which amounts to Double the Sum but such articles only are selected out of it as appear to me unexceptionable, and I have not the least reason to doubt them to be just, having examined the Vouchers, so that I am persuaded they will be admitted.

I am well satisfied that a great part of the cash for which he sold his Lands has been at different times advanced for the Service, and I could say much in favor of several large articles which he has not included in the present accot as he had so long neglected them from a Confidence that they would be paid at any time. But I need not to enlarge upon this subject to you, who will be able to judge sufficiently of the propriety of his application, and will

doubtless favor me or him with directions on that head. In justice I cannot say less of his readiness in the discharge of his Duty and the reasonableness of his accots. and I hope you will excuse my freedom in writing you upon a subject which I cannot help viewing in a favorable Light, and which I thought it my duty to recommend to your attention.

Genl. Gage.

Endorsement.

"April 3d 1767. To Genl. Gage concerning Mr. Croghan's Accots."

SPEECH OF THE MOHAWKS AND SCOHARÉE INDIANS,

TO SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON BARONET &ca, RELATIVE TO A LATE PURCHASE MADE AT SCHOHAREE.

Abraham Speaker,

Brother Gorah Warraghiiyagey

We are come to acquaint you with a very extraordinary Affair which we were Yesterday made acquainted with by some of our Neighbours of Scoharee, and as it concerns, us, We would be glad to hear from You the reason of such doings. It is concerning the Lands we Sold when the Governor was at your House last Fall, for the use of Hannis Lawyer and his Associates, from whom we then received the full consideration for which we agreed, and now we understand that Lawyer and his friends, are to have but one half of it—To us, such doings appear strange, and I believe You would think hard of us were We to act so, We cannot therefore in Justice to them People (who have been long about that Tract, and at a good deal of Expence besides, the purchase money) allow the Land to be Surveyed for People with whom are not acquainted neither did we ever hear of the least intention they had in purchasing them Lands, and if they had applyed, we could not think of leting them, or any other sett of People have the Land which we had so long ago promised to the purchasers, which you may remember—

Brother we declared to the Governor at the time the Deed lay on your Table ready to be Signed, and gave him our reasons then for it. which together with the carefull manner everything was then

done, We imagined there never could be any the least squable about it hereafter, but in short Brother, we are sorry to see that the white People (who have more sense than we) will for the sake of geting Land wrong one another, since that is the case, what are we Indians to expect from You.

Brother

We have no more to say to the Subject but to request you will let us know if you can the reason for such doings, if you cannot, We would then beg of you to enquire of the Governor, who no doubt is acquainted with every thing relative to that affair, as it was transacted in his presence. Ended.

Sir William told them that he was an entire Stranger to the cause of such a division as was now proposed to be made of the Land they mentioned, but would at their request transmit what they now had said on the Subject, to the Governor, whose answer he would communicate to them on receipt thereof.

Johnson Hall the 9th day
of April 1767.

A true Copy Examd
by G Johnson
Dep. Agt acts as Secy.

SIR Wm. JOHNSON TO GEN'L GAGE.

Johnson Hall April 18th. 1767.

Dear Sir

Before the receipt of your favour of the 5th. instt. I had received an acct. of the Murder of the *Traders* by the *Cherokees*, they have neither plundered or Scalped them which shows that it has been done by way of retaliation,—Tis certain they have exceeded the number of those who were killed by the white people, but they never act on equal principles on such occasions, and it was of this I have been all along so apprehensive, for as the Life of an Individual is of much more consequence to them than those of Ten in our Estimation, their thirst for Revenge is without bounds, Nor can I well see how satisfaction can be easily obtained from them. A Genl. War has taken its rise from a smaller Cause, for they imagining that War is intended & being once entred seldom recede, and the Lawless persons who have been the Authors of it

would be the last to rise in defence of their Country if invaded, as experience has shown. The Westrn Nats. may not follow the Cherokees Example, on account of the murder of the 2 Squas at Detroit by a negro who is now in jail, but I believe will escape punishmcnt for ye want of prosecution. I believe Col. Campbell and his officers, who were then at Detroit, know ye. affair as well as any.

I have had a particular information of the murder of the Delaware Indian at Redstone Creek, it appears from the information of sevl. White Men that the Quarrell arose thro' the Instigation of Coll. Cresap of Maryland who trades on that frontier &, (probably from interested motives) had actually told the deceased that if he met with any Traders in the Country or going to it, he should take their Liquor from them & cause the Kegs to be staved. This is one of the consequences of suffering Traders to ramble wherever great profits may seduce them, and I consider it as only a prelude of what is to follow unless they are timely and effectually restrained.

Altho' it is a necessary step, Yet I have but Little hopes from Proclamations, as I have some reason to think that there will not be Vigorous Measures pursued agt. those who disregard them.

In all probability the late affair may obstruct the fixing the boundary between North Carolina & Virginia. The Northern Confederacys have no just claims to the lands South of the mouth of *Ohio*, for altho' they have long been at War with the Southern Indians, whom they greatly overmatch—particularly in abilities—yet they never made an absolute Conquest of that Country. Mr. Stewart has wrote to me that Deputies are to be sent to the Northward to sue for peace, if it can be effected. I know them to be so implacable in their Resentmt. that it will be of very short duration, and the demands of the Northern Inds. are the Latter shall submit to be their slaves, and acknowledge that their Country is conquered, otherwise they will continue the War.

Lieut. Roberts sets off immediately as Commissary for *Michilimackinac*, Capt. Lieut. McLeod, removes to *Niagara*, and I have appointed Mr. Michl. Byrne, who is a person of good character, some time in this country, who has been a Commissy of provisions

on the frontiers, and is become somewhat acquainted with the Inds., to succeed him at Ontario.

A few days after I transmitted my last accts. a Draft was tender'd me for payment of £300 N. Y. Curry, from a Mercht. at Montreal, for Presents as I understand, purchased & given lately to some Inds. by order of the Governor, as I have no Letter of Advice from any person on the subject, and that I don't apprehend I have any thing to do in it, I gave the Drafts back, until I should receive your directions respecting it.

I am,

His Excellcy. Genl. Gage.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson hall April 24th 1767.

Dear Sir

I have had the favor of your Letter of the 13th inst and have forwarded the inclosure to Ontario—

The Orders you have sent to Niagara and to Fort Pitt, will I expect prove of great service towards the better conducting of Affairs, I am far from thinking that the Article of provisions should become a general rule for all Indians, it is only meant when there is a real necessity for it.—

In my Instructions to Major Gorham I have restricted him from incurring any unavoidable expenses, he is only to See them once a year, in Meeting, when his Expenses will be limited for he can do noths without some Expense and at other times when they shall come on business to him he will regulate himself by the former practice, I have likewise restricted all the Commissarys throughout the Department and given them the best orders I could respecting their Conduct so that (unless some change happens) the Expenses of this Year will fall far short of the last which was chiefly increased by the Ilinois Treaty &c—I have hitherto transmitted a regular Acct half yearly of the pay due to all the Officers at present in the Department but some of them are so distant that they are obliged to take up money from Merchts or Traders Who draw upon me before I have recd it, and should I not advance my own money,

or borrow as I have often done, the officers credit is hurt, and he will not again be supplied when in the utmost need, for which reason I am entirely of opinion, that to have Cash in hand I should either be empowered to draw for certain Sums on the Treasury, or they to remit money for the Departm^{t} this should in my opinion regard the officers pay &c only, as the Dibursements & occasional expenses will pass very well thro' the present Channel. If you approve of this I could wish you would recommend it to the Government as I purpose to do & I imagine if they agree to it, it will greatly facilitate the Service.—Should the plan be laid aside, I must Indeed lay before the Gov^{t} the necessity there is for my being impowered to purchase Goods in England to a certain Annual Am^{t} for the annual public Congress, and such expenses as may be nearly ascertained, Tho' the want of this I am necessitated to take up Goods in *America* in a hurry at double the Charge, which greatly inflames the public Acco^{ts} of the Department, the Saving which I propose is worthy attention, and I flatter myself it will meet with your recommendation—

I have given Mr Croghan positive orders for retrenching Expences and I am certain he will Strictly follow them, Whilst affairs remain as they are the pres^{t} expenses will be very small compared with the past, I am only concerned ab^{t} the duration of the present Tranquility, which seems at best a matter of Great doubt from the different advices I have lately received.—

Amongst the rest I have certain acco^{ts}, from some Indians who never yet deceived me, & who are returned from the War ag^{t} the Southern Indians that they have discovered a general discontent arising amst all the Nations thro' which they passed on acc^{t} of the many late Murders committed on the frontiers & the Settlements making in their Country,—that the spirit of resentment prevails universally throughout the Warriors, that the Sachems being averse to a War have done and are still doing all in their power to restrain them from committing hostilities, but that they are very doubtful of success.—I shall enquire as far as possible into these matters and endeavor to prevent it if I can, and with that View shall talk the 6 Nations who are to meet me in a few days at the Germanflatts on my Summons in consequence of the request made

to me by the Govrs of *Pensilvania* and *Maryland* that I would endeavor to obtain the consent of the Indians to run the Division Line to the Westermost Extremity of these provinces—

I am well informed that *Chabert Joncair* is preparing to set out with a Cargo of goods for Niagara, and heartily wish he could by some means be prevented, for I am convinced that no good can come of that Journey, and that he will be as ready to infuse dangerous Sentiments into the Minds of the Indians as they will be to give credit to all he says from the great esteem in which he is held by them—I had almost forgot to mention that there are at the posts some Cloathing which was long since sent up, to be given to the Indians, but are now a good deal damaged by Lying by, I would therefore desire your directions respecting them & whether you would not think it best to have the same delivered to the commissaries for the use of the Indians, as it would be a Saving to the Crown.—

I inclose you an Extract of a Letter from *Fort Pitt*—mentioned to have been sent in one of my late Letters, but which was forgot till this time.—

I am, with the Greatest Esteem

Dr. Sir, &c.

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO CAPT. MATURIN.

Johnson-hall April 24th. 1767.

Sir

I have received your Letter of the 13th inst. and now enclose to Mr. Comy Genl Leake an order on you for £1732. 11. 10. N York Curr. being the Ammount of Mr. Croghans last Accot. given in to the General, who Mr. Croghan writes me allowed of it and required my Order on him for the payment. I also Enclose to Mr. Henry White an Order on you for £1568. 13. 7. Y Curry. being the Ammount of the pay, Expences &c of Mr Cole Commissary at the Ilinois, which (according to the Letters I have received) you was to pay so soon as you received my Order.

I am in much want of the pay of the Officers and my Disbursements, as I am daily obliged to advance cash for both, but I make

no doubt of your readiness to settle the whole as soon as you have it in your power, and I thank you for the readiness you have Expressed in these Matters.

I am, with Esteem, Sir,

G Maturin Esq.

SIR W^M. JOHNSON TO GEN'L GAGE.

Johnson-hall May 20th. 1767.

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 4^th. Inst I received at the German Flatts, and that of the 11^th. on my arrival at home.

I have with much difficulty obtained the Ind^s. consent to permit the divisional lines of Pensilvania & Maryland to be run to the Westward of the Allegany. The number of Ind^s. that attended was 627, which was much more than I expected or desired. Previous to my setting out I received very unfavorable accots of their disposition & unwillingness to come down, which obliged me to take such steps as would shew them that we continued our friendship as usual, I accordingly purchased some Goods which added to the present from the Provinces of Maryland and Pensilvania afforded them all a part and sent them away Contented, after having w^th. much difficulty settled the differences between them and the frontier people, and prevailed on them to agree to a peace with the Cherokees. The Exigency of the occasion prevented me from consulting you hereon or waitg. y^r. ans^r., which I know you will Excuse on that accot. and as soon as possible I shall send down on acco^t of the Expenses, w^h. are not considerable on such an occasion. I have not for a considerable time past discovered so general a discontent amongst them, the causes of which have been daily increasing, and retaliation seemed resolved upon. There is a French lad at Detroit who saw the Negro murder the Squaws of which I thought it necessary to acquaint you. I wish the fellow who fled to *Virginia* may be apprehended, & the Intruders near the Ohio, removed, which will have a good Effect.

The Expenses of North America, is doubtless a matter of serious Consideration at home, the more so from the proceedings of people

here,—It will nevertheless be a great pity & a general loss should they affect the public Service or the Security of the Country, which must be the case if they are hasty in their Resolutions. The withdrawing the Garrisons from the Small posts may not be attended with ill consequences; but care certainly should be taken of the frontiers otherwise such a scope will be given both to Indians and French, as will leave them at Liberty to form Designs and even put them in Execution before we are able to take any precautions for the public security.

I have had lately two Letters from Gov^{r}. Carlton who mentioned the presents he gave the Indians & sent a Certificate of the authenticity of the Acco^{t}, I think he ought to have fallen on a method to have discharged it without bringing it into the Acco^{ts}, of the Department, according to the Custom of other Governments, however I was obliged to promise that I would answer the Draft, if you approved of it, or else suffer it to be protested,—Gov^{r}. Carleton has answered me on the subject of the Conduct of the Canadians to the Westward. It seems the latter have given an Extraordinary good Character of themselves, and appeal to L^{t}. Co^{ll} Gladwin for their past Conduct this appears pretty odd as he made the most particular Charges against them, and transmitted the strongest proofs to support them. I wish (from the tenor of the Gov^{rs}. Letter) that the Inhabitants of that Government may not have prejudiced him in their favor, which I am induced to think they will do, having one Common interest to support, and all aiming at going where, or doing what they please, as well as making false charges ag^{t}. Comiss^{ys}. never yet complained of.

The consequences of Traders going where they think proper have been felt both to the Northward & Southward, the fairest Dealers may be robbed & murdered, how much more have those to Expect who act otherwise, yet these private murders finally produce a War, which it is our business to prevent by preventing the cause.—Trade with people beyond any Civil Government, under the immediate protection of the Crown, and these people uncivilized incapable of giving Evidence or of obtain^{g}. Justice but by Retaliation, without such Officers and Inspectors ought Surely to be seriously to be attended to, and under these circumstances it can be

no infringement of the liberty of the subject that we guard against the dangers in which all might be involved by the misConduct of a few. If the officers of the Crown differ in Sentiments with the Government, as well as with one another, the Service must fail in its principal object, and the Commissaries unsupported, & of Course Complained of from all Quarters must prove a needless Expense. These appointments did not originate with me and I have no reason to enter into the Merits of the affair but that it was a Judicious System proposed & approved of by Government, I have heard no complaints but of Lt. Hay who I have ordered to prepare his defence, and who should not be condemned unheard on a charge brought by a Man who deserved punishment himself, I have received a very different acct. from Capt. *Turnbull* of the affair, which cannot yet be determined on either side. Govr. Carleton could not with propriety in my opinion write me to desire "that no Violence be offered to the Traders." The Comissy. (admitting the Complaints true) not having Exercised as much power as required by the plan, neither can it be insinuated that I should give any officers of the Department the least countenance to do so.

I have recd. and forwarded the Order respectg. the Cloaths remaining at the posts, & shall write to Major Rogers to incurr no more Expenses, as you desire, Agreeable to which likewise I have wrote to Mr. Henry Cuyler at Albany to receive the Cash, of which I am in the utmos want. Be assured that I always am, with perfect esteem,

Dear Sir &c.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson-hall June 12th. 1767.

Dear Sir,

I have had the pleasure of yours of the 1st. Inst, and at the same time received one from Capt Maturin advising me of the Cash for which I have now sent to Albany.

Capt Turnbull will I dare say, send down the French Lad with any other Evidences necessary for the Tryal of the Negro. That

Lad as it has been reported to me was passing by and actually saw the Murder committed, if so, there will be little farther proofs required.

I cannot but agree with you in Opinion that Lt. Govr. Carleton is new in Indian Affairs, and I believe he either came over with strong prejudices, or has been imposed upon by a people whose interest it is to deceive him,—I cannot otherwise account for the Tenor of his late correspondence, where amst other matters he has thought proper to advice me to prevent the Commissaries from being guilty of Acts of Violence, particularly to the Canadians who assure him that they are the best of Subjects & appeal to Lt. Col Gladwin for a Character during the late Indian War—this is really Extraordinary as no Gentleman was more acquainted with or discovered more resentment at their Conduct of which he was daily transmitting proofs,—I have now just recd. a Copy of a Letter from Mr. Carleton to some Traders, wherein he Expresses his Astonishment that the Commissrs. shod. have any thing to do with them sends them passes to Trade wherever it is convenient observing however that he cannot yet dispense with the Regulatns adds that he has wrote to the Secy of State &c about it, with many other particulars which from my Letters appear contrary to the Sense of the Government who first created these appointments & shod. Annihilate them if they are not supported in Correcting the abuses in Trade & Indian Transactions.—he says the Complaints agt the Commissaries are General, and particularly as to their severe Treatment of those from his Governmt. Whereas it is well known no Comissy. was hitherto at Michilimackinac the prinl. Rendezvous of the Canadians, and as for the rest I have never heard any Complaint but agt Mr Hay & that for the very reverse of what he is charged, the Complaints made to me against him by petns. signed by sundry persons being for manifesting a blind & bigotted partiality to the Canadns. all wch they offer to prove circumstantially on Oath & for which he is now to answer.

Had there been the least plausible pretence for Exhibit'g Complaints agt the Comisss. of Niagara & Ontario I should soon have had petns. Letters, &c on that head from the Traders, but it is well known that the 2 Latter posts have little or nothing to do

with those from that Governm^{t}. & as no Commissary was at Michilimackinac it must rest on M^{r}. Hay, who is accused to me by a powerfull number of persons for a conduct diametrically opposite to the Canadian charge. In fact the Traders both English & French, but particularly the latter generally do as they please and it is not in the power of the Comiss^{ys} to prevent them One of the consequences of their Liberty is the murder of Jadot, & the Indian we must Expect many such accidents if they Trade where they please with people who have it not in their power to obtain justice from us be their Conduct what it will, and who are so sensible thereof & so revengefull that they will not hesitate to do mischief, when they think themselves aggrieved,—I have had the particulars of Jadots Affair, and wish it may go no farther, the Ind^{n}. murdered is Son to the Chief of Cheneessio, a Troublesome people who have much influence, Two, or Three such instances may bring about such consequences as will open the Eyes of the public, and convince the Government of the necessity there is for having the Trade with Ind^{s} under some Limitation & Inspection or otherwise Leave the whole to chance.

Capt Browne writes me that he has at y^{e}. request of Comis^{sry} Roberts caused Two Traders to be apprehended at Toronto where they were Trading contrary to Authority I hope L^{t}. Gov^{r}. Carleton will agreeable to the Declara^{on} in one of his Letters have them prosecuted and punished as examples to the rest—I am informed that there are Several more from Canada trading with the Ind^{s}. on the North Side of Lake Ontario; and up along the Rivers in that Quarter, which if not prevented, must entirely ruin the fair Trader. I am &c.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson-hall July 1st. 1767.

Dear Sir

Since my last of the 12th Inst Mr. Chabert arrived here together with Lt. Carleton nephew to the Gov^{r}. with Letters Very much in favor of the former, representing his quiet and good behavior, the ill treatment he met with in France which must

prejudice him against that nation, that having now bought a Large Cargo for the purposes of Trade he & family must be ruined unless allowed to dispose of it, from all which and from his repeated intreatys and assurances of behaving in such a manner as should render him worthy that indulgence, I was at a loss how to refuse him, and therefore have wrote by him to Brig^{r}. Carleton, acquainting him that I should give you notice thereof. If Mr. Chabert will act the part of a Wise man, & a man of honor as I am willing to hope. I imagine he will not abuse such indulgence, and therefore as I cannot take upon to make any further objections to him I must submit the matter entirely to your consideration.

By Letters from the Commissarys I am informed that the Comd^{g} Officers have told them that they could not issue out any prov^{ns}, to them, or to the Interpreters, or Smiths.

I know it is an Article of Expense but I am really at a Loss what to do without it for it is absolutely necessary that the Comiss^{y} Should be able to give some out to the Ind^{s}. who come on business, and must be fed in his House, which he cannot afford to give them out of his own pocket, neither is it to be procured at any reasonable price at the posts.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson Hall July 11th 1767.

Dear Sir

Your favour of the 28th ult^{o} was handed me by M^{r} Croghan, who will have the honour of delivering you this, & to whom I must beg leave to refer you for the particulars, as sent to me, of that unhappy affair of the murder of Cap^{t} S^{t} Clairs Serv^{t} by 2 Mississagays or Chippaways in Lake Huron as well as for several other things w^{ch} I really have now no time to write, owing to the Melancholy scituation of my Family, which he can also inform you of.

As I understand that the Comd^{g} offices at Detroit is sending the Two Indian Pris^{rs} to me, I shall be glad to receive y^{r} orders concerning them as soon as convenient, It is a most unlucky thing at this time. & their sending em down here makes it worse I hope

it may not be the means of a fresh breach between us, & the Nations in y^t^ Quarter, if not with more.

I heartily wish that Cap^t^ Murray may be able to persuade the Virginians to abandon their Encroachments at Red Stone Creek, & Cheat River, as such an Instance of the governments good intentions of doing the Ind^s^ Justice would certainly at this time have a good effect.

M^r^ Croghan laid before me an acc^t^ of Ind^n^ Expenses at Fort Pitt from y^e^ 1^ct^ June 1766, to 3^d^ June 1767, by order of the Commanding officer of that garrison, amounting to £1744–10–3¾ N York Cur^cy^, w^ch^ I have examined, & find just. Wherefore have signed it, & doubt not of y^e^ ordering it to be paid.

A few days ago, I received a letter from M^r^ Cole Comisr^y^ at the Ilinois enclosing an acc^t^ of the Expences which he says he has been unavoidably put to, by reason of y^e^ great number of Ind^s^ who resort that Post since Trade with us has been opened.

It amt^s^ to £3721–12 Y. Curc^y^, as you will see by the enclosed which is vastly more than I could have thought of, or wished him to have expended in so short a time & w^ch^ makes me imagine He must not have received my letter wherein I strongly recommended the greatest Economy that the nature of the service would admit of & M^r^ Croghan to whom I have committed the care of that quarter of my Department, tells me that he also recommended to him the greatest frugality, He has drawn upon me for y^t^ am^t^ in favour of Messrs Baynton Whayton & Morgan of Philadelphia who write me very pressingly for it.—You will therefore please to let M^r^ Croghan know your intentions regarding it, that he may acquaint them Gentlemen with them.

There are still some Deserters & others amongst the Nations living about Detroit, Michilimacinac, &c who are endeavoring to stir up the Indians to do mischief as M^r^ Croghan can inform you. It would be of great service to have them secured & sent down, for which end an order to the officers commanding the out Posts would I think be necessary.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson-hall Aug. 6th. 1767.

Dear Sir

I have had the pleasure of your Letters of the 12th & 20 ult°, and am much obliged to you for the kind concern you Express for Lt. Johnsons misfortune, he offers his best respects to you, & notwithstanding his Second Accident so soon after the former is now in a very fair way of recovery. Capt Claus is Quite Well & sets off tomorrow for Canada.

I sent imediately to the Oneidas to speak with them concerning Lt Gallands information and shall in a day or two endeavor to Settle the point with them, I know their Jealousy of Settlements so well that I hope any dwellers there, (as I hear there are some) will be very circumspect, and cautious of inflaming it.

As I wrote you before concerning the Indians who were sent down, charged with the Murder near Detroit & have now the favr of yr Sentimt which are entirely Correspondt with my own need only add that on their Arrival here I Judged it best to secure them at Albany for a few days and shall now send for them and make the restoring them to their people as meritorious an act on our side as possible & Give Mr. Hay instructns how to act on their Arrival at Detroit which is all can be done at present, Indeed I have since recd Sundry particulars from persons there sufficient to invalidate the charge brought against them, and that notwithstanding the Seeming indiference of their Chiefs both they and their neighbors are greatly incensed inasmuch as they have lost so many of their people without obtaining satisfaction particularly One killed by a Battoeman at Detroit near the Fort 2 years ago & the 2 Squaws by the Negro Since These Circumstances as well as the encroachments and murders committed by the Virginians &c occasion much discontent, & are often heard by Traders & others to whom the Indians are more communicative than to the Officers, for before the Latter they are generally shy of expressing their Sentiments.

Amongst others I have taken the Examination of a man made prisr. in 1763, who is Just come down the Country from Powtiwatama a Village West of St Josephs where he has ever since resided Who after declaring the Strong inclinatn. the Indians in

that Quarter have for the French & the hopes they still Entertain from that Quarter adds that last year they sent to N Orleans to enquire of the French into these matters who dismissed them with valuable presents, plenty of Ammunition & assurances that they would shortly attack the English & that the Indˢ. shoᵈ. hold themselves in readiness that this Spring they were assured of the same by the Comdᵍ Officer near the Illinois in the Names of the French & Spaniards, & that when he has expressed a desire to leave them they have advised him to consider their Village as a place of Safety, & not go among the English where he would be killed Adding that they woᵈ. Exert themselves with more Vigor and be better Assisted than in the late War—As he well understood their Language, & that they had for a Long time expected he would never Leave them he had an opportunity of hearing their Real sentiments, & observes that the Prinˡ cause of their dissaffection is owing to the French Traders & others amongst them who fill their minds with the strongest prejudices Amˢᵗ others that the mortality in 1757. was owing to our havᵍ poisoned the Rum, & that Disorder since was occasioned by sending the Small pox amongst them, That they were well pleased on hearing wᵗ I had said at Ontario last year but that the French assured them it was false and only calculated to amuse them, the better to destroy them hereafter, & that they are daily abused with the grossest misrepresentations of us by the Canadians, the French in their Neighborhood, and those from Mississippi &c.

I Expect that Mr. Croghans Accoᵗ will be the last to Such an Ammoᵗ under the present State of Affairs, as to Mr. Coles it is really considerable, & I dont know Justly what to say to it till we hear farther—the Conduct of the Virginians, & the desire to win the Indians over may have contributed to them, but I hope we shall hear something more fully on that head.

Enclosed you have an Accᵗ of the expences since March last, I should not have troubled you with this until 7ᵇʳ were it not for the Several Drafts drawn upon me by Commissʳʸ Hay for his pay, & that of the Interpʳˢ. Smith &ᶜᵃ till March last, which I did not receive time enough to include in my last accᵗᵗ. also Two Accᵗˢ. from Major Rogers one of the Lᵗ. Govʳ. Carleton &ᶜᵃ, the whole

amtg to £ which I must request you will order to be paid as soon as convenient. Should an opportunity offer of sending it to Mr. Henry Cuyler of Albany it would answer extremely well.

Genl Gage.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Augt 21st 1767.

Dear Sir,

Since my last I find by several Accots I have received that the restoring the Indians who are prisoners will be highly pleasing to all the Nations, & I am persuaded that if the Matter be properly conducted it will have a very good Effect In order to accomplish which, I Judge its best that Mr. Croghan do proceed from Fort Pitt to the Detroit which is a Journey of only 6 Days as he is not only better Acquainted with the steps to be taken but also can there Examine into the Abuses and Disputes concerning the Traders, in which he apprehends he can do good Service,—I find as well from the sevl. Letters I have received as from Major Bayard & other Gentlemen from thence that these Indians are far from being as Criminal as was first reported & that the person who was Murdered was a Man who had often used the Indians ill, and bore a very bad Character.

Should you approve of what I propose Mr. Croghan shall proceed with full Instructions on the foregoing heads and he may arrive at the Detroit about the time the Indians can by this communication.

I am now on my way to the frontiers of N England—having for some time past been much disturbed with my former Complaints & a Swelling in my Leg, I thought a Little Excursion to the lately discovered Springs might prove of Service, and that should I receive no benefit from the Waters, the change of Air might prove of Some Service to me. As my Stay will be but a few days Your Answer will I hope find me at, or near home.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson hall Septr. 6th 1767.

Dear Sir,

Being Just returned from the Springs from whence I think I have received some benefit, I Judged it proper to Write by Mr. Croghan who is the bearer of this and who in case you approve of the Journey proposed for him to the Detroit will be in Want of about a thousand Pds. Sterling, for paying off the Department there to the 25th wch will be the best opportunity & save much trouble. I Left the Springs Sooner than I should otherwise have done on acct. of Some Letters &c transmitted me by Lt Johnson which were received from the frontiers and from some Accts received from the Indians which I don't much like. on my Arrival at Albany I was Surrounded by people with Drafts drawn on me by Major Rogers to a very considerable Ammt. those I have already Seen come to between 2, & 3000£. I must deferr saying any thing farther on this Subject for the present, but referring you to Mr. Croghan for other particulars conclude with Assuring You that I am with the utmost Regard Dear Sir

&c.

His Excellcy
Genl. Gage.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(Private.) Johnson hall Septr 11 1767.

Dear Sir

Tho' I wrote to you a few days ago by Mr Croghan Yet I could not avoid saying something again on the score of the Vast Expenses incurred, and as I understand Still Incurring at *Michilimackinac* chiefly on pretence of making a peace between the *Sioux* & *Chipeweighs*, with wch I think we have very little to do, in good policy or otherwise. By Letters I have this day received from Capt Claus I find that farther drafts on me have been shown to him at Montreal to the amount of £1100, and I hear the whole Exceeds £5000. In short from the several accts I have received I am induced to think there must be some particular motives for this Expense, and indeed the method

practiced in conducting Affairs there tends to strengthen that opinion, The Traders have been vastly indulged to procure their Esteem, but are nevertheless very importunate for their Money and I am at a loss what to say to them upon it, for Expences seem to have been made & Ind^{s} called purely to shew authority and gain reputat^{n} the business was given into the hands of the Commiss^{y} with a bad grace, and much has been done to draw the latter into large Expenses, which however he is sufficiently armed against by his Instructions, as was also the Major upon the whole I have reason to apprehend some thing more than common is in View (which may not be mattter of surprise to you) & I should have Given the Sec^{y} of State a Hint of it so that he might at least be sent some where else, but that I would not do it with^{t} your knowledge & approbation—I cannot help having more than ordinary apprehensions at present on the score of the Indians, from some Intelligences I have lately received particularly from a few Indian Chiefs with whom I have been well acquainted near 30 Years, whose interest it is to be faithful, and who never once deceived me in that long period. These men have I am pretty certain given me a candid acco^{t} of the sentiments and purposes of the Warriors throughout the whole Confederacys, who are brought to such a pitch from their not being redressed on the score of Lands, Trade, and Insults on the frontiers that they are about some associations of a Mischievous nature, and Indeed this acco^{t} is greatly strengthened by Letters from persons in Sundry Quarters, who have the best opportunity of discovering their secret Views & designs. The Government are I believe at a Loss what to do about the Department from the representations of Traders &c perhaps you have received by the pacquet some advices on these heads—I have said enough on these Subjects to explain fully the Conduct of the Inhabitants, Traders &c with their effects upon the Indians, which sufficiently point out the means whereby we can live in any security from the Latter, and if after all this nothing can be done to strengthen the Hands of the Officers of the Crown, I cannot think of risquing my own Character, when it is not left in my power to Serve his Majesty and the publick, as my Duty and inclination requires—

GEN GAGE TO SIR W^{M}. JOHNSON.

New-York Sept 21st : 1769.

Dear Sir,

I am favored with your two Letters of the 6th and 11th Ins^{t} : and am glad that you have received Benefit from the Waters, and perhaps a little gentle exercise would contribute to your perfect Recovery.

M^{r}. Croghan set out yesterday for Philadelphia in his way to the Detroit, and I have been for some Hours busy in writing Letters for him to carry there. The officer Commanding will give him every assistance in his Power to compleat the Commissions with which he is charged, and if it shall be found necessary, the better to authenticate any examinations or enquirys Mr Croghan is directed to take, a Court of officers will sit for that end.

With respect to the Commander of Missilimakinak, I could devise no better means to stop his Proceedings, and put an immediate End to all the Mischiefs he may create, than to remove him immediately from his Command. I have therefore done this, and ordered him to meet M^{r} Croghan at Detroit; at which Place my Letter to superseed him in the Command of Missilimakinak will be delivered to him The Bills which he has thought proper to draw to so great an amount, pretended to have been incurred on a trifling affair, undertaken soly by his own Authority, the expence of it by the same Powers only, contrary to the orders and Instructions given him by you as well as by me, must be protested; and I acquaint him that they are protested, and will not be paid. I have sent orders that he shall return no more to Missilimakinak, or be permitted to hold any Conferences publick or private with any of Indian Nations, and to watch his motions very narrowly. Of all this you will take no Notice for some time to come. I have wrote very fully to Lieu^{t} Roberts to send the fullest Information upon every part of his Conduct. and given Orders to the officers to assist him in his enquirys.

I am sorry that you find the Indians in the Disposition you mention, what Complaints they have concerning their Trade I have never heared, by all acc^{ts} lately transmitted, they have never had for many years so plentifull or so cheap a Trade, as this year. I

am as ignorant of their Complaints about their Lands, unless it is the old affair of Kayadorossoras and the encroachments of the Virginians at Redstone and cheat Rivers. They know of the Removal of the Virginians by force from those encroachments, as many of their Chiefs were present with the Detachment. The Insults they have received on the Frontiers should no doubt be redressed, and every method has been taken to do it, But in some of the Quarrells which have happened, the Indians were in fault, and the first aggressors, as far as I have been able to learn.

I have received no advices from the Government on the subject of your Department these many Packets; am inclined to think with you that they may be in doubts what orders to send, from the different Representations made them.

I am at present so hurryed that I can only add, I am with great Regard,

Dear Sir,
your most obedient,
humble servant,

Sir Wm. Johnson Bart — Thos Gage.

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO GENL. GAGE.

Johnson hall Septr 22d 1767.

Dear Sir

I have had the pleasure of your favor of the 7th Inst, a few days ago. I hope Lt Gallard will as he becomes better acquainted with the Indians be more reconciled to their behavior, which I shall to the utmost of my power prevent from going to any extremity. The Indians are much more dissatisfied at the appearance of Settlers than even at a Garrison, as the former increases and overspreads the Country, these people having no Legall title where they are are with all very imprudent, and so oft as the Indians buy rum from them they will be troublesome.

The Character of Capt Sinclairs Servant is certainly no Justification of the murder, but the particulars in Mitigation of the offence, as fully shewn to me, are sevl. such as his constant ill treatment of the Indians, and that he received but one blow from an

instrument which it was not probable would have produced such effects; as the affair is now to be settled and according to the Instructions delivered to Mr Croghan I expect that it will appear we have taken the Wisest Step, without neglecting a due regard to the honor of the nation.

I believe that the Indians have sense enough to see that the French have often imposed upon them, but we are to consider that these French are their particular favorites, who can easily acco^{t} for their having been hitherto disappointed in a manner which the Ind^{ns}. cannot possibly disprove.—The Indians are in fact at Bottom much discontented & as fond of the French as ever, and whatsoever they ardently Wish for it is natural for them to expect even after several disappointmen^{ts}. Indeed the Discontent now amongst them is the more dangerous as it is carried on under disguise and their conferences secret. The want of settling the Boundary Line & the Neglect of establishing many other points of the Plan, as well as redressing Grievances of which agreable to my orders I gave them assurances long since, appears to me to be the principal cause of their jealousy, I have often spoke to them to remove the French family's and Mr Croghan shall have farther directions on that head, as they do us much harm.

Mr Croghan has full directions Concerning the Trade and is to make enquiry into the complaints Exhibited agst Lt Hay, The traders there as also at y^{e} other Posts are I believe only quiet because the most of those that chose it have gone out without Liberty on this and many other subjects I have now wrote L^{d} Shelburne and offered my thoughts as he desired towards such a remedy as I judge might be applied without much Clamour In my last from his Lordship he writes me that he has sent positive orders to the Gov^{r} of N. York concerning Lands, and to you, to cooperate & give y^{r} assistance in removing the South^{n} Intrusions &c the difficulty attending which from the unwillingness of the Col^{s}. to call for military aid I have observed to him.

This moment I have received advice of the death of the chief all the Senecas, the Messengers dispatched on that occasion being not yet arrived, I know no particulars but I expect that it will occasion some considerable change for the worse amst these

suspicious troublesome people. From the many particulars I have heard I intend imediately to go towards the Onondaga Country, as if for change of air, where I hope I shall have an opportunity of making some farther necessary discoverys, and Lt Johnson at Guy-park will forward your Letters or receive your Commands, during my absence wch will be as short as possible.

Endorsed

Septr 22d. 1767

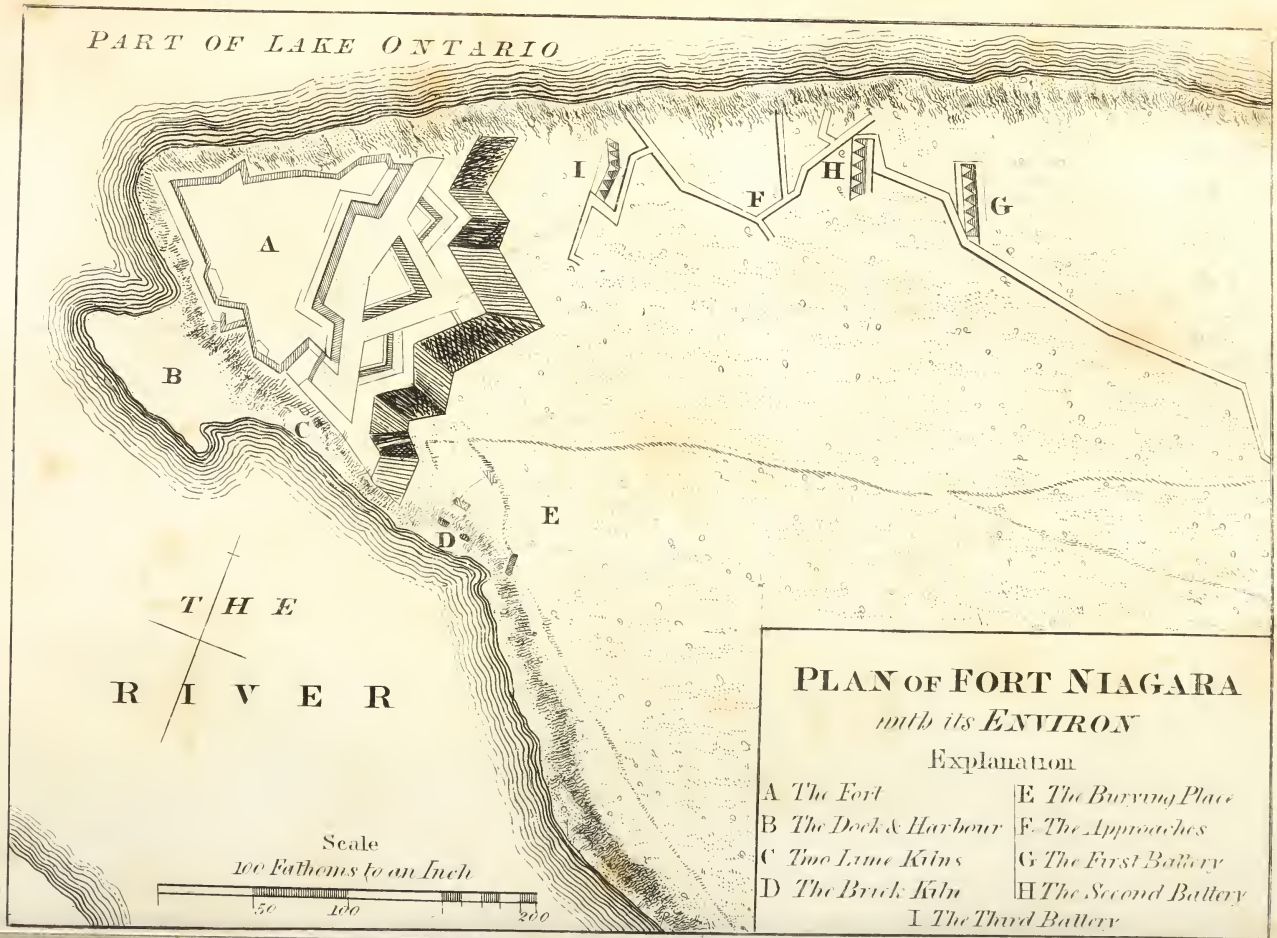
To Genl Gage.

JOURNAL OF INDN TRANSACTIONS AT NIAGARA, IN THE YEAR 1767.

FROM 2D JULY TO THE 24TH SEPTEMBER.

July 3d. A Drunkin quarral happened on the Carrying place betwene some Sinecas and a Messesagas, the latter got much wounded was brought to this Post & was under Cure till the 18th. one of the Sinecas got wounded in the shoulder, by all accounts. The Messesaga began the riot by wounding one of the Sinecas first.

July 5th. Nane bo jou a Chief of the Messesagas formerly a Chippewa came in seemingly discontented at the bad usage his Country Man met with. He made a long Speech: the perport of which was, that he was much dissatisfide at the behavour of the Sinecas: that he was very glad to see me: that he was very hungry, and beged I would give him some provisions, rum, powder and Shott: Then gave four Strings of wampom: he again spoke much to the Same purpose with this addition that he was going to Toronto to Consult with Wabacommegat what was best to be done on the Occasion repeated his displeasure at the behaviour of the Senecas, and desired as sone as their Chief should come in that the Heads of the Messesagas should be sent for that whatever dispute should happen betwen or had already hapened betwen them might be settled. and gave me ten strings of wampom which was to be shown to the Sinecas Chief's and with it to demand their intentions and their reason for behaving so badly towards the Messesagas. I promised them some provision and Rum a little


PART OF LAKE ONTARIO
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
I
THE
RIVER
Scale
100 Fathoms to an Inch
50
100
200
PLAN OF FORT NIAGARA
with its ENVIRON
Explanation
A The Fort
B The Dock & Harbour
C Two Lime Kilns
D The Brick Kiln
E The Burying Place
F The Approaches
G The First Battery
H The Second Battery
I The Third Battery

powder and Shott, told them it was only a drunken quarel and ought not to be taken further Notice of, espetially as the Messesaga was the agresser, and I desired that nothing Should be done in the affair without first Consulting me. gave them five Strings Wampom, They promised nothing should be done without my being first Acquainted with it.

This day I sent four strings of wampom to Casteehe Chief of the Genesees to Acquaint him of My being arrived at this place.

July 17*th*. Arrived Wabacommegot Chief of the Messesagas.

July 18*th*. Arrived Ashcushan head warior of the Senecas belonging to the Caiadion Village, this day Wabacommegat came to Speake to me but was so drunk that no body could understand him.

July 19*th*. Had a Small congress with Wabacommegat. Present Norm^{d} : M^{c}Clod Esq^{r}. M^{r}. Neil MacLean Com^{ry}. of Prov^{s}. Jean Bap^{t}. De Couagne Inter^{r}. Wabacommegat spoke first, and after the usual Compliments, told that as soon as he had heard of my arrival he and his Young Men Come to see me. then ask'd me if I had any news, and desir'd I should tell all I had, then give four strings of wampom. I then told them Children I am glad to see you. I am sent here by your Father Sir William Jonson to take care of your Trade and to prevent abuse's therein, I have no sort of news for I suppose you have heard of the drunken Chippewas that kiled an English man and wounded his Wife very much ; above Detroit ; they are sent down the Country by Consent and approbation of the head Men of the Nation, I am sorry to acquaint You that some of your Nation who came here with Nane bo jou killed a Cow and a Mare belonging to Captain Grant on the Other side of the River. I am persuaded that all present here think it was very wrong and a very bad return for the many good Offices done by the English in general towards those, and in particular by Captain Grant who had that day fed the Men that was guilty of the theft. I hope and desire that Wabacommegat and the rest of the Chiefs and Warriors here present will do all in their power to discover the thif, and bring him in here to me the next time they return, that we may see what satisfaction he or they may give Captain Grant for the loss of his Cattle give seven strings of wampom

Children I am sorry to hear You have permitted People to trade at Toronto. I hope you will prevent it for the future, all of You know the reason of this Belt of wampom being left at this place, I then shewed them a large Belt, left here five or six years ago by Wabacommegat, by which belt he was under promise not to allow any body whatever to Carry on trade at Toronto. Now Children I have no more to say but desire you to remmember and keep Close to all the promises You have made to Your Father The English. You must not listne to any bad news, when You hear any good or bad; come to me with them, You may depend upon it I shall alway's tell You the Truth. give Four strings of wampom

Father, we have heard You with attention; I think it was verry wrong in the People to kill Captain Grants Cattle I shall discover the men that did it and will bring them in here in the fall: We will allow no more Trade to be Carried on at Toronto. as to myself its well known I don't approve of it, as I went with the Interpreter to bring in those that were tradeing at that place: we go away this day, and hopes our Father will give us some provisions, Rum, powder and Shott. and we will bring You Vainson when we return. N. B. this speech was made by Wabacommegot. I told them it was not in my power to give them much; but as it was the first time I had the pleasure of speaking to them, they should have a little of what they wanted. Wabacommegat thank'd me and said that the drunkin Quarrel on the Carrying place was forgot and no more thought of, as it was rum did it.

July 20th. Aseushan one of the head warriors of the Senecas came to me told me he was verry Sick and begged he might be cur'd; as the white People are better doctors then the Indians. and said he would remain here untill he should Recover, I told him he might stay here and we should do what we Could towards removeing his Complaint. he left this post ye 31st July.

Augt. 1st. Received a Message from Castesh by two Young Seneca warriors, acquainting me he would be here in Three days.

Augt. 5th. Castesh arrived with seventy Seneca Men Women and Children: the Chief Came to visit me, and said as I acquainted them of my arrival here, they came to see me. that the Shawanese had killed a number of the uper Nation Indians somewhere near

Fort Pitt, that two of their squas meaning the Sinecas had been kill'd lately by the upper Nations near the same place, and also told me there was a great many Men with Arms arrived at the above Fort. I told them I was glad to see them but sorry to here that the Indians were so idle as to destroy there own flesh and blood. as to the People in arms that were going to Fort Pitt, I could not with Certainty give any account of, but I believed they were going to disposses some People that were living on the Indian lands with out haveing any right so to do. Casteshanswered that might be so, as them people were still living on the Indian lands.

Aug^{t}. 6th. Castesh came to me alone, said they had in spring received a good deal of Cloaths and other presents from Sir William Johnson: but that they were now wore out, and hopped I would have pity on them and give them some Cloaths, and other things, for the use of there old People, Women Children and warriors, I answered him I would tell him in Council how far it was in my power to give presents, he then beged of me not to allow the Traders to give any rum to his Young Men, as a great many of them were verry foolish when drunk, I immediately comply'd with his request and told the traders not to give the warriors a drop until they were going away.

Proceedings of a Congress held at Niagara Saturday y^{e} 8th Aug^{t}. 1767 With Castesh and the Chiefs of the Sinecas

Present
- Normand Mac Lod Esq^{r} Com^{ry} of Indian affairs
- Cap^{t}. John Brown Royal Americans
- Cap^{t}. William Lee Royal Artillery
- M^{r}. Neil Mac Lean Com^{ry} of Stores & Provisions

Interportors
- Jean Baptest De Couagne
- John Blaker

The useual Compliments being past, The Commissary of Indian affairs spoke to them, as follows.

Brethren I am glad to see you, and I hope you will give ear to what I am going to say.

Brethieren You allready have heard of my being appointed by Sir William to take care of the Indian Trade at this place to heare

your Complaints, to redress your greivances, and transact all business with you under Sir William, It shall be my studdy to serve you, and promote your intrist as long as you behave well

Bretheren I am asham'd and sorry to hear of the foolishness of some of your young People, who make it too often a practice to steal the Kings Cattle from this place, I hope and desire that what you have of the above Cattle at your villages, may be returned as soon as possible, and that there may no such theft happen for the future, as You must know Yourselves that such offenders ought to be punish'd. amongst us thefts of that kind are punished with severe Corporal punishment, and often with death. I therefore hope the Cheifs will advise and pervent their Young Men from Commiting such folley, I also hope the Young Men will listen to their Cheif's advice in that, as well as their advice of allway's doing good, and never think of harm, I strongly recommend peace and friendship to You, with all his Majesty's subjects, as I can with truth assure you there's no violence intended or will be permited, on either your persons or propertys, no fraude in trade shall go unpunished on proper Complaints being made to me : Therefore I hope you will no more give Ear to idle stories of whit's or Indians but rest assured of Sir William's good offeices and attention to your Intrist and the attention and good offices of all the officers in his department whilst you continue to deserve it, which I hope you will always do.

Brethern it is my Instructions from Sir William Johnson not to incur any expenceses without orders from him, the reason for them instructions, is on account of the great expences the Crown is at ; by the appointment of all the Gentlemen that has the care of you, and of the Interpreters, and smiths, who act gratis for you at the diffrent Posts. Sir William hopes that You will be convinced of the Extraordinary Expence occasioned by these appointments ; and that they are all intended for Your benifets, and he farther hopes that when You are convinced of the above it will prevent your makin unnecesseary demands for presents or provisions. Notwithstanding the strictness of my orders, as it is the first time I have had the pleasure of seeing You, and in hopes You will not expect any such thing for the Future, I here make

you a small present, I then laid the present before them, and told them.

Bretheren after what You have heard and what You see before you, I hope You are fully convinced of the good intentions of the English towards you, I therefore hope you will allways keep close to their Intrest. Now Bretheren I have no more to say only beg of You to remmember all You this day have heard.

Castesh Chief of the Senecas immediately made answer

We have heard what You have said and think it is very good, I shall lett Sir William know of the good things You have said, and of the good respection we have met with at this place ; we are Convinsed of the good intentions of the English towards us, and will stick to their interest. as to the Cattle that have been taken from this place, whatever theres of them at Our Castle's shall be returned, we shall advise our Young People not to do any maner of harm to the English, but there are bad men every where, and among us as well as elsewhere, we have no Stort of punishment for offences, so that we can only advise, and if our Council is not followed we are not to blamed, as to News, when theres any in our villages You shall know of them, and we expect when there is any among You, that You will send us intelligence of them, I promised I should.

The 9th 10th & 11th I had private meetings with Castesh and Segowa the two principal Chiefs of the Senecas, in which they gave the greatest assurence of their invoilateble attachment to the English, I made them small presents ; and they went away well satisfied 13th Instant.

Augt. 14th. They got drunk on the plain.

Augt. 15th. Monsr: Chabiere arrived here, Castesh and a good number of others came the 16th: and spoke to him, he afterwards spoke to them in public before Nord Mac Leod Comry: of Indian affairs, and Capt. John Brown of the 2d: Battn: of the Royal Americans, who Commanded the Garrison; he having first told the Commery: and Commanding Officer, that it was by desire of Sir Willm: Johnson Baronet, that he wanted to spake to the Indians. One Mr: John Blaker acted as interpreter for the Comry, his then being on business at little Niagara. Mr: Chabiere spoke to the

Indians told them it was a shame for them to behave as they did, in carrying away and killing the King's Cattle on the Carrying place, and begged of them never to be guilty of the like folly again, told them to adhear to the English intrist and not to believe anything about the French's comeing again to this Country if they Could come it would be to digg a great Hole and put them all into it. desired them to be on their good behavior as all the mischief they would now do would be laid to his Charge, He then told them by the desire of Captain Brown that there was a Com^{ry}: appointed by Sir William Johnson to take care of them, and if they had any reason of Complaint in any way whatever against the English, they should address themselves to him as he is the Man that has the Care of You, and he will if posible redress all your grievances. The Indians made Mr. Chabiere the same answer as they made me on the 8th of August.

The Indians remained on the plains till Mr. Chabiere went off.

Aug^{t}. 20th. Mr: Chabiere went away from this place he carry^{d} Castesh the head Chief with him in his Boat; the rest of the Indians followed him by land and I believe some of them went as far a Fort Erie with him. some were to have gone to Detroit but they fell sick and stay'd behind him.

Aug^{t}. 24th. I was informed of some bad belts having come amongst the Sinecas (from the Delaway^{s}) I heard that the two great Cheifs of that Nation was still on the Carrying place, I sent my Interpreter M^{r}: De Couagne to spake to them and try if he Could get any Certain intelligence about the above mentioned Belts, he overtook them a few miles from the Road, they told him the Belts had not yet Come to their Villages but that they had passed to the Onoidas and they thought they would return soone to their Village, that there were two Belts but did not imagin they contained any great harm, that one of their Nation had seen them at a place Called Tatieronno at the end of the Cayouga Lake, they also desired that De Cougne should go to their village and if there was any news he should there be told them: and get possession of the Horse amongst them that had been taken from This or the Carrying place. They said that Mons^{r}. Chabiere had appointed a place for them on the south side of Lake Erie where they may

Carry ll their News to ; and where they would get all the news that was amongst us as he intended to winter there, I was informed this day that Mr: Chabiere had made the Indians some presents when on the Carrying place. I this day received a Message from Wabacommegat Chief of the Messesagas that he was to come and see me in a few days and bring me News that was not good.

Augt. 25th. Received a message from Shawitohon an Catshigueoton to sineca Chief Warriors, acquainting me that they had stolen two Horses from the Carrying place and said if I would send for him I might have them and two others formerly took away, but they were so sickly they could not send them themselves. as I Expected the Messesagas every day I could not send my Interpretor and had nobody else to send. I this day discovered that notwithstanding the fine promises they had made to the Country, the Senecas had stole five Piggs two horses and killed a Bullock.

Sepr 1st. I was informed that the old Women of the Sinecas had stopt their Young Men from going to War.

Sepr 3d Nanebojou a Chippawa Chief came and told me that Wabacommegat would be in soon he told DeCouagne the Intirpretor that there had some bad Belts gone amongst the upper Nations, but they had not come to his band or to the Messesagas. when I spoke to him he told me he could tell me no news untill such time as, Wabacommagat came in. I was this day inform'd by Tacudese speaker to the Sinecas of the Genesee, that Castesh had the bad Belts at the time He was here at Counsil, that one of them is a span and two fingers broad, and near a Fathom in length, He said Castesh was an old rogue for not having told me the truth, I desired He might stay here till Wabacommegat should come in, and then he may carry all the News home to his Village, as I had promised to send them all the News I should hear, I shall keep my word and never tell them any lyes, and I hope they will do the same towards me. I told him I should send De Couagne Out with him to the village to bring back the Stolen Horses and get all the News.

Sepr. 10th. Wabacommegat arrived in the Evening

Sepr. 11th. He came to visit me and told me he could not

speake to me as he Expected Three more Canoes that day, but as soon as they should come He wold tell me all the News, if I wold mine.

Proceedings of a Congress held at Niagara 12th Sepr 1767

With Wabacommegat and other Messesaga Chiefs; and some Chiefs of the Chippawas.

Present { Normand MacLeod Esqr Comry of Indian affairs
John Polson Lieut of the Royal Americans.

Interprer Jean Baptist De Couagne

After the useual Compliments Wabacomegat Chief of the Messesags shew'd the same strings of wampom I had formerly given Him, desiring He should let me know all the News that should be amongst them, and said that in obedience to my request, he had now come in; to tell me all the News he had, He then told me that the Poutawatamis of St Joseph were still drunk and doing mischief wherever they went to, that the Saguina Indians had killed a Young Huron that the Saguinas had sent a Belt to the Hurons to try to make a reconitiation for that murder. that the Hurons had receiv'd the Belt but would make no answer to it. That the Indians about Detroit had very bad harts, but whether their bad designs were against the white People or some Indian Nations he could not pretend to tell. That the Shawanese had sent bad Belts amongst the upper Nations, but the Chippawas and Messenger did not agree, When they were just about accepting of the Belt, and going to shake hands some diffrence arose and the Chippawas refus'd the Belts, and the Messenger carry'd them away again, Wasson was the Chippawa Chief that refused the Belts. He then said Sir William Johnson desir'd when any News came to their Ears to bring them into this place as there is a great Man here to hear us and take care of us. He also desir'd we should be Close Connected with the English and hold them fast by the hand; But say's he holding them fast by the hand, is not enough as the hand may slip but our arms be so tyed fast together that if a large tree should fall upon them, the Chain of Frendship should so Cover them that the weight of the tree should do them no hurt.

Now Bretheren its a shame that this should be the only Post where the Indians hav no presents; in the Posts up the Country,

they get every thing they want in great abundence. I hope therefore You will not do as You did last time I was at this place, which was to give me only about as much powder as would once loade my firelock. I am ashamed to return home, and tell my Young People I have been well received by my Brothers the English always take care of us and use us well, and at the same time I have not so much as one load of Powder and Shott to give them to show our Brothers have been keind to us. I hope therefore You will now give us, as we are going a hunting, a Cagg of Powder and some lead also, a little rum to enliven us on the Road Sixteen String of wampom

Then addressing himself to Tacudase spaker of the Geneseis who was then Present, told him they had sent a Belt of wampom to their Nation to know their sentiments on affairs in General and in particular concerning the Murder of the Squas but we have received no answer. The Speaker made him no answer.

I then told them as it was late in the day, I had not time to give them an answer that night but the next day I should speak to them.

Sep^r. 13^th^. The Congress met again.

Present
- Nor^d^. Mac Leod Esq^r^. Com^ry^. of Indian affairs.
- Jean Bapt^t^. De Cougne Interpretor.
- Cap^t^. John Brown of the Royal Americans
- Lieu^t^. John Polson of the Royal Americans
- Cap^t^. Sower Engineer
- Cap^t^. Lee Royal artillery
- Cap^t^. Alex^r^. Grant Commanding the Brunswick

The usual seremony being over the Com^ry^ of Indian affairs spoak as follows.

Bretheren I thank You for the News You told me yesterday, the more so as they seem to come from a good hart, it gives me pleasure to see your hearts good. I hope they will always continue so. as to the Poutawatamis of S^t^. Joseph they have been a long time drunk. But they have lately sent two prisoners to Detroit which they took when going to War against the Southren Nations, they have, not long ago been drunk and killed some English men comeing down the Ohio, but when they sent the

prisoners to Detroit they asked pardon for the Crimes they had commited, by which I hope they will be wiser for the future, or the Bung will be put in the Barrel, which will prevent their geting any more liquor out of it, and consequently will make them keep sober. I allso heard of some Belts from the Shawanese and Delawars having been sent amongst the upper Nations. I am glad to hear from you that the Chippawas refus'd them. I should be glad to know from You what Nations have received them; and whither they passed through Your Nation or not. if any of Your People have seen them, and to what end they were sent amongst the Nations.

All this I hope (from your useual goodness of hart towards the English You will inform me of, and keep nothing within You of what You know concerning the before mentioned Belts, as I shall never conceal any News from You which comes to my Ears.

Nine Strings of wampom

Bretheren I am sorry to here the People about Detroit have bad harts a little time will discover their intentions. I wish the Senecas had made an answer to the Belt You sent them, as theres one of their Nation here present on this place, I shall by him let the Nation know what You have said, I hope he will use his intrest amongst them to desire them to let You know their sentiments, which I hope is good, I hope you will always keep the strings of wampom I gave You when last here, they will put you in mind of bringing or sending your News to this place; when you shall always hear the truth, when the last time at this place I spoke to You about some of your People who had killed a Cow of Captain Grants; have You brought the offender according to promis, I hope You'll keep the promises made me when You was formerly at this place, which was that You was to allow no person whatever to Trade at Toronto or on the other side of the Lake within Your boundarys with this wampom I desire that, that promise may be strictly observ'd Bretheren as to presents it's contrary to my orders to give any, as all presents must be given by Sir William Johnson or his order; but as You have allways behaved well espetialy at present, in bringing me Your News I shall venter to give You a little powder and lead a little Rum with some pipes and Tobaco.

After they got the present Wabacommagat made answer. Brother the Belts did not pass by Our nation, we had the News of them from Other people, I know not what Nations have received the Belts, but it is my opinion that the Hurons at Detroit have keeped a little bit of it, we know not the meaning of the Belt as it did not come our way : Brother when you know the sentiments of the Sinecas I hope You'll let us know them ;

as to the Men that killed Captain Grants Cow, they belong to an other band and not to mine ; I therefor have nothing to do with them.

Sep^r. 15^th^. Tacudace the Genesee speaker came to me told me he was going away. I desired he should tell the Nation what the Messesagas had said, and they should (by De Couagne who was to sent off to their Village in two or three days) send me word what they intend'd to do in that affair, as well as concerning the Belt they had received from the Delewars ; at the time the Speaker and I were in Close Conversation Cap^t^. Brown came in, told the Speaker to tell him all he knew about the Belts sent by the Delewars The Speaker said it was none of his business to tell any News as the great man of the Village ought to have told all their News themselves, and that what he had told was to be keep'd private ; but Cap^t^. Brown insisting on his telling every thing he knew about them belts, in reather too positive a Maner ; the Speaker was mech affend'd. and went away reather in a passion. Tho' I gave him some Tobacco, and powder, and some provisions. The Man had formerly told me all he new about the belts. and I told it Cap^t^. Brown.

Sep^r. 17^th^. The Speaker left this Post ; and Stol one of De Couagnes Horses.

Sep^r. 19^th^. Asueshan came in with a quantity of Curious Oyl, taken of the top of the water of some very small Leake near the Village he belongs to.

Sep^r. 20th. I sent for him and asked him his news, he told me he had none, but that if I had any he hoped I would tell it to him, I told him what Wabacommagat had said to me and to Tacudase and also told him what Castesh had said to De Couagne on the Carrying place, He then said there was so much bad News, that he pityd

me as I had all the Indian affairs in my hands I must be greatly at a loss how to act, ispetilly with regard to the dispute between the Sinecas and Messesagas, He then gave a very broad hint that the Sinecas and Messesagas would certainly go to War against each Other, that they were going to send some Negroes they had amongst them to Sir William Johnson he seemed to be much afraid that the Negores would tell S^{r}. William maney lyes and that he would believe all the bad storeys they would tell Him, they told Ascushan that they would soon return from Sir Williams with a Charge of goods which he was to give them to trade amongst the Sinecas, and that if he had not goods ready he would employ them as Com^{ry} of Indian affairs

Sep^{r}. 21st. I ask'd Ascushan if he knew any thing of bad Belts haveing gone amongst the six Nations he answer'd no but there was allways People enough amongst them to propegate bad News whither true or false, it was his own Opinion that the Indians at present ment no harm to the English, whatever they did towards one an other; at all events no harm was to be done this winter he did not know what might happen in the Spring, but then he would come into this place and let me know what News would then be amongst them, I then told him I intend'd to send my Interpreter M^{r}. De Couagne to the Genesee Castle : to get all the News they had their, and bring back some Horses stolen from this place. he said he would go with De Couagne, and speak for him to the Indians. I then gave De Couagne a belt of wampom of seven Rows upon which he was to speak to the Genesee and get their News. and also sixteen string of wampom left with me by the Messesagas, In Order to be sent to the Senecas to know their Intentions Concerning Affairs in General and in particular about the murder of the four Squas.

Sep^{r}. 22^{d}. Ascushan and De Couagne set off for the Genesee Castle.

SIR Wᴹ. JOHNSON TO GENL GAGE.

Johnson-hall Oct. 22d. 1767.

Dear Sir

Having been absent for above three Weeks at the Oneida Lake for the purposes mentioned in my former Letter, I could not earlier Answer your two Letters of September and last of the 4th Instant.

I have received the sevl. enclosures therewith transmitted, with the Head piece &c from these particulars, and the State in which I now find the minds of the Indians I have reason to think that the charges agt some of the Northern Indians may be true. I did not receive that Letter, regarding the Cherokees &c till I was at Fort Stanwix on my way home consequently it has not been as yet in my power to lay the same before the Six nations, but I shall do so as soon as possible. I imagine Mr Stuart has not yet received some of my last Letters otherwise he would have found that the Deputys have been expected here & may come with safety & treat about an accommodation. I reserve the Subject of affairs at Michilimackinac for a separate Letter which is herewith inclosed, and herein answer the remainder of yours of the 21st. Septr. and 4th of this Inst which chiefly regard the motives of discontent amongst the Indians.

The Indians are divided amongst themselves with regard to Trade, some being desirous to have Traders amongst them, others not sensible of the ill effects of which it has been & may be productive, the Trade is plentiful, & may in General be cheap, but sundry Traders are guilty of frauds, and ill treatment to the Indians, for which there is no remedy, altho' they have been repeatedly assured that persons shod. be appointed Vested With Ample powers for that purpose; as well as that a Total Stop should be put to the Conduct of the frontier inhabitants. The Greatest Grievances with regard to Lands are the Kayaderosseras patent & the Grant of the Lower Mohock Flatts to ye corporation of Albany the several Intrusions made & threatened to be made in almost every Quarter to the Southward occasions likewise a Genl discontent. on all these points they were assured of Speedy and Effectual redress, which they have in Vain Expected these four years. The large patent before mentioned is circumstanced exactly as you

describe, nor can anything be Expected to be done in their favor here therein or indeed in anything else, for the judicious reasons you assign. The Indians proposed frequently that We should not Exceed Certain Limits in our purchases &ca and the Govt was so Sensible of this that the Establishment of a Certain boundary Line between each of the Colonies throughout the whole Continent and the Indian Nations was made an Article of the plan. This is the boundy, I have so often spoke of, not that between Pensilvania & Maryland which is a private affair, & Concerning this Genl. Boundary (agreeable to my Orders) I conferred with the Whole Confederacy & Assured them that it would forthwith be settled, and Lines determined on, beyond which no purchases whatsoever should be attempted As nothing appeared better calculated for preventing farther disputes than the redress of present Grievances, and the fixing such a boundary as would prevent future encroachments to which end the Inds. proposed to Cede Lands to most of the Colonies they have expected it with impatience for a considerable time, & finding themselves disappointed therein, & on every ther head they suspect that it was done to lull them into a State of security & cannot be persuaded out of the opinion, that we have hostile designs which we are about to put into Executn. The people on the frontiers may not always be agressors, but they certainly are so very often, this serves to confirm the Jealousy & Resentment of the Indians, and our Enemies who are very busy amongst them greatly increase both, for however absurd the Inds may appear in believing a people who have so often deceived them, it is most certain that they do so & give credit to all the reports they receive. As to what you mention of the Shawanese and Delawares refusing to Accompany Capt. Murray the reasons they gave were Just, them Lands being the Sole property of the Six Nations, and the Mingoes (as the Six Nations are called there) were the people agreable to their practise who should have attended him altho' such intrusions were equally disagreable to rhe rest. Some of their people may at times be brot. to encourage Settlements & even thro' Lucre dispose of Lands, which is highly disagreable to the rest, & therefore we should put a stop to them, at least they Expect that from us having

no regular mode of their own for preventing it, other than by the murder of the parties. I met the Indians at the Tuscarora Creek in Oneida Lake, they were greatly affected at the death of a remarkable Chief of the Onondagas, and I was obliged to perform all the Ceremony on that occasion after which they told me of the various Reports & Injuries they had received, that their heads were quite turned with them, that they had in Vain waited the fullfilling of our promises, & that every agreable hope seemed now fled as the Nations to the Westward & would probably soon create disturbances & draw others in to retaliate the Injuries they had received. that they had received a very large belt from an Officer on the *Mississipi* with a message to inform them that they need not longer be trifled with by the Inglish for that he (by which is meant the Gov^t^. to which he belonged) having sat down quietly for some time & being about to rise up, luckily discovered his Axe beside him & found that it was as Sharp as ever, therefore Exhorted them to take up theirs Likewise—each Nation pretended seperately to be better disposed than their Neighbour, but upon the Whole I see nothing but a General tendency to a Rupture which I am at a loss how to prevent, as my Influence & Credit must decline in proportion, as they find that the promises made them prove abortive

I Should have sent Down my acct^s^ by this opportunity but that I have not yet rec^d^ those from Niagara—the present Method of pay^g^ off the department^t^. is attended with the greatest inconveniency to me—the Officers at the Outposts draw occasionally, I must ans^r^. them or hurt their Credit & I have been often obliged to take up money for that purpose. I think it will be best to Give you an Estimate for the future of the Ann^l^. Am^t^. of Sallarys &c that I may have the Amm^t^. of that at Least in my hands to ans^r^. those purposes of the Department.

Gen^l^. Gage.

THE SAME TO THE SAME

(Private) Johnson hall October 22d 1767.

Dear Sir,

On my return I found a pacquet Just arrived from Montreal inclosing me the Depositions of M^r^ Potter taken before the Chief Justice of Quebec relative to Maj^r^ Rog^rs^ Schemes & Conduct a

Copy of which I am informed has been Sent to you, and also that Potter is gone for England on that occasion.

The Deposition is long and with the other papers transmitted (one of which is a Letter to my Deputy, Lieu^{t} Johnson) fully shew his Views & Confirm the Strong Suspicions we had before entertained concerning him. It appears to me necessary that the Governm^{t} should be fully informed of these particulars, and you will doubtless agree with me concerning the necessity there appears for preventing him from putting his resolutions into practice or eluding the plan you proposed for bringing him from thence. He is a weak, Vain man, and however romantick his scheme may appear, I believe him capable of undertaking it or in short any thing else, and in the present State of affairs sho^{d} he escape he might I am certain give us some Trouble. The Traders there tho ignorant of his particular project, begin to be greatly alarmed on acco^{t} of their persons & propertys from some discoveries they have made, and my opinion is, that as he now knows he is discovered, he will be driven to any thing thro' despair, & that he will Leave the Garrison imediately having concerted a plan with those Seduced to follow his fortune & as I am given to understand with the Assistance of some Ind^{s} to plunder the Traders & so go down the Mississipi or put some of the rest of his plan in Execution. Potter with great difficulty escaped from his Clutches & got to Montreal, but on the presumption that you will have received all Informations hereon, I will add no more, but beg to be favored with your ans^{r} as soon as convenient & as my present hurry will not allow me to send Copies, should they not be come to your hands I shall send them in my next.

I am greatly distressed for want of provisions for the Ind^{ns} resorting this way, some of them have been here for a Considerable time, and I am obliged to buy up Cattle for them which is a greater Expence to the Crown than Kings provisions. I must beg you will Order some this way as there are none to be spared from this Quarter or from Albany or Schenectady.

Gen^{l} Gage.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson hall October 30th. 1767.

Dear Sir

The 22d. of this month I wrote you two Letters, the one on Indian Affairs in General, the other concerning the Commandt of Michilimackinac, and I now inclose you my Accots of pay and Disbursements for the whole Department to 25th Sepr. (*Ilinois, Fort Pitt & Detroit* excepted, on a presumption that you had given Mr. Croghan orders concerning them agreeable to a former Letter of mine) for the amt. of wch I beg the favor of you to order a Warrant being really much distressed for cash to answer them.

Since my last I have received more Letters from Michilimackinac concerning Affairs there by which I find that the Commissy has been Led off the parade by a File of Men & Confined on acct of some words between him & the Commandant concerning a Cargo of Rum which was seized on the North Shore opposite the Fort, the particulars of which are I apprehend contained in Letters which go by this post

In the present critical situation of affairs with the Indians I am at a Loss what Step first to take, the Ministry are fully apprized of every thing but the time will not permit me to receive their answer concerning the Calling a Genl Congress, to meet next Year, as this must be attended with a considerable Expence I would willingly have your Sentiments & direction concerng it, I have thought of it as what would for a time divert their attention, and the issue of it might prove to their satisfaction or in the mean time somewhat else might be done in their affairs.

His Excellency Genrl. Gage.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson-hall Novr. 24th. 1767.

Dear Sir,

I have had the favor of both your Letters of the 9th Inst. and I think as you do concerning the final consequences of the Boundary line, It would however have its advantages for a time, and the Indians think so, but whether that or any thing wee can fall upon

will fully answer is to me a matter of doubt, the feeble state of the Governments, and the Interests and pursuits of the people of all which you are fully sensible must prove a bar to the most salutary measures, If a Government was formed on the plan you mention it would prove a good barrier against the Encroachments of others, and have strength enough in itself to restrain its own people within just bounds. the powers of the Old Governments seem to grow daily weaker, & the Inclinations of the people to do justice to the Indians lessen and therefore we cannot expect they will apply to the military of whose power they seem so Jealous— The Settlers about Redstone Creek increase which is what I apprehended for these people when they have once found a Spot where they are not under Landlord or Law will soon draw other Idle persons about them, I shall cheerfully concur with you in pointing out the ill Consequences of such Settlements to the Governors of which I wish they may take notice, but for the reasons aforementioned I almost despair of it.

I have wrote to Major Gorham about his acco^{ts} and the Establishments he has made some of which I by no means approve of, Such an expence in that Quarter may I think be well dispensed with.

What I meant with regard to the Officers Sallarys was that agreeable to the Estimate I should furnish I might have a sum of money put into my hands to answer their several demands.

The Expectation I had of some plan's taking place hitherto retarded many necessary regulations with regard to the Numbers and Sallarys of the Officers. All the Comms^{ys} intended by the plan, are not as yet appointed but some of the posts proposed lying in Nova Scotia &c. are indeed less material. The office is almost useless unless the Traders are confined to the posts. My Deputys require some alterations in their office, as my immediate representatives it is not easy to conceive the expences they must incurr, and the charge they are at from the resort of the Indians to them, from their travelling and other Charges, purely incidental to their office. Such is the Nature of Indian Employments that they are not to be weighed with others of the same sallary where men have to do with a reasonable people.

. . . ew circumstanced, few or none in the character of

Gentlemen, and thoroughly acquainted with the nature and cost of attending that duty would incline to it if subject to the same expense and trouble. These lesser Expences amt. to so much annually that they are introduced into the public accots. and sevl. of them serve to augment mine, which besides its giving a Latitude I don't approve of, Creates Irregularities in accts and therefore I long since intended to rectify it by a fixed augmentation to their Sallary of £100 p ann. for all their Travelling charges & Expenses of a private Nature, and I now think it absolutely necessary, as a saving of much expense and trouble & a proper check upon them, So that I shall state it in the next Estimate.

The present practice of the Traders & the want of power in the Commissrys. defeat one of the material purposes of their appointment, I think it needless to take any farther trouble about it, but leave it to time to shew its effects. All that the Commissaries can now do, is, to hear the Complaints of the Indians, to report the forfeiture of the Traders bonds, & to Gain and Transmit Intelligence, & as the spirit for a free trade prevails daily more & more thro' the distressed Circumstances of the majority of them, whose Credit failing they wod. undertake anything for delaying their fate, we must manage as well as the slender powers we have will allow to prevent such Toleration from producing the ill effects which is apprehended, by preventing such from going into the Indn. Country as cannot give good security for their behavior, & prohibiting all such whose fortunes and Characters render them dangerous.

If the Trade is to be more general, I think a Duty on Spirituous Liquors might very well be laid especially what went into the Indian Country, (The Like was done formerly by this province on all carried to Oswego,) and the monies arising therefrom might be applied towards defraying the Expenses of the Department. Mr. Chabert notwithstanding his promises to me, and the plausible speech he made in public to the Indians at Niagara, afterwards assembled them privately told them that what he had said he was compelled to by the presence of the English, but that they might be assured of the King of France's design to assist them, & advised them to be ready to begin upon us. This I have had from Indns of different Nations whose accts all correspond. I shall do what

I can to keep the Senecas quiet as well as to retard their private meetings, at the same time I can't but think that a Gen^{l}. Congress would disperse these Clouds in some measure or at Least give us time to receive some powers if any will be given by the Crown for removing the causes of the present discontent.

I do not doubt but that Potter will make the most of his discovery from his Character, at the same time I believe his accot is within Compass, & that probably he could say more if he choose it. Maj^{r}. Rogers has Goods trading for his benefit in the Ind^{n}. Country to a very considerable amount, and the Returns may soon be in, as I am informed; for which reason I thought it best to hint, that it would not be amiss to have them secured for his Creditors. I have a Letter from Capt Spicemaker on the subject of Lt. Robert's Confinement, I hear the latter is near this place on his way down.

His Excell^{cy} Gen^{l} Gage.

GENL. GAGE TO SIR W^{M}. JOHNSON.

New York Decr, 6th. 1767.

Dear Sir,

As I conceive the main objects of the present Resentment of the Indians to arise from the Insults they have received from the Frontier People of Virginia, and the Encroachments made by those People and others upon their Lands; I have wrote in the strongest Terms to the Governors of Pensylvania and Virginia to grant Redress to the Indians upon these Points. Shewing them the conduct of their Provinces before with respect to Encroachments, for which no Justice could be obtained: which at length obliged the Indians to throw themselves into the arms of the French for Protection, and had occasioned the Hostilities commenced upon us in 1754 & 1755, and the war that followed. If their Laws were insufficient, that others should be made more effectualy to secure the Indians in their Persons & Properties, and if the coercive Powers of Government are weak, that I would assist with any force that

should be demanded to remove these Disturbers of the Publick Tranquility forceably, and bring them to Punishment. Whether they will lay my Letters before their Assemblys? or what else they will do with them I know not, but I am determined to exert my utmost Powers to put affairs in a proper way, and shew the King's Ministers that I do not trouble them with complaints without using all my endeavors to remedy them.

The General Boundary must be left to the Government at home to manage and we must wait their answer. I have talked here of the affair of Kayadorosseras, & lower Mohock Flatts. People say, that the first might be settled between the Patentees and the Indians to mutual satisfaction. You will know this best, and if you send me proper Information and your opinion concerning it, I will move in it.

I can say nothing to the Trade, unless there is proper Information against any particular Trader whereby he may be prosecuted, In which case I will push it.

Brigadier Carleton tells me if any thing can be fixed upon any People from his Province that he will prosecute them. but he can do nothing in a general Complaint of the Conduct of Canadians, the majority of whom may be People who have fled the Country and mixed with the Indians. I shall send him the Paragraph of your Letter of 24th. Novr. concerning the Indian Trader Mr. Chabert. I received the above Letter yesterday.

With regard to all Salarys, they cannot be paid till they are due, and sending an Estimate half yearly of those officers who are in Pay a month before the time, The money may be in hand by the Day it is due.

I am to beg that you will not advance the Pay of your officers till you have proper Consent and Authority for it. Their present sallarys have been laid before Parliament and an Increase thereof without knowing by what authority it is done, will probably occasion Questions and heighten the Complaints already made in Parliament of the Latitude in Expences that is even now given.

Mr: Roberts will no doubt lay his Complaints before you, I have near twenty affidavits sent by Major Rogers. which most in

fault I can't say, most probably both of them so in some Degree, But I am apt to believe that the Major would be glad of any excuse to rid himself of an Indian Commissary

I am with great Regard,
Dear Sir,
Your most obedient
humble servant
THOS. GAGE.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

New York 14th Decr. 1767.

DEAR SIR,

The little Carpenter, Great Warrior, and seven other Cherokees are arrived with one Watts their Interpreter. I have taken Care of them here, and shall if wind &ca permits, embark them for Albany after to morrow. But as the Ice will probably prevent their getting up so far, they will its likely, land at the Manor or Claverack and proceed to Albany by Land, from whence they will be forwarded to you. I have provided each with a warm Jacket, a Pass, and Letters to Albany.

You will hear of the ten men belonging to Wharton's Boats, that they were killed by the Indians of Saguinam Bay, as also two Indians who accompanied them, of what nation is not said. They have sent Excuses to Detroit, saying that they took the white men & two Indians all for Cherokees, against whom they went out to war. But they knew well enough who they were Cherokees don't go upon the Ohio with loaded Batteaux. These ten, with the one killed at Detroit, a Trader in the Shawnoe Country, and one lately in a Field whilst asleep near Turtle Creek, by a Delawar Indian said to be a half Brother of one Powell who lives near Turtle Creek, makes in all thirteen white men killed by the Indians within four or five months; so that upon the whole, they seem pretty even with us in the article of murder. The above Delawar attempted the life of another man also asleep who luckily awoke at the Explosion of the Indian's Gun, which he discharged in the Head of the Deceased whose name was Mc Donald. The second man is a good deal wounded, but got to Fort Pitt.

There was a demand made a long time since, and lately renewed, for some Arms taken by Colonel Bradstreet at Oswego from a French Trader for the use of the Indians. The Colonel would not pay it, but if I remember well gave a Certificate, which was transmitted to you If the Demand has not been paid by you be so good to look out for the Certificate, for the money is justly due; and somebody should pay the Trader; but Colonel Bradstreet objected, that the Price demanded was too high. If you can make out an affair of so long standing I should be glad that you would pay the Trader what is reasonable.

I am with great Regard,
Dear Sir,
Your most obedient
humble servant,
THOS GAGE.

Sr Wm Johnson Bart.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

New York December 16th 1767.

DEAR SIR,

I wrote to you on the 14th Inst to acquaint you that the little Carpenter, Great Warrior, Raven King, and Six other Cherokees, with one Watts an Interpreter arrived here on friday last from Charlestown; They have been taken care of, and are warmly cloathed, and I expect, will embark this day on board a Sloop, to proceed as far as they can by water towards Albany. As my former letter went by post, I have no doubt, it will reach you, long before they will arrive, and deliver you this, which in that case, will serve only to inform you, that I have advanced the Interpreter Thirty pounds Y Curry, in order to defray their Expenses to you, For the Expenditure of which, he is directed to account with you, and you can add it to the charge of any other Disbursments you shall be obliged to make upon their Accounts, and charge it all together. You'll Be so good to give Captain Maturin a credit upon Mr Mosher for this thirty pounds, When you have recieved a

Warrant from Me, for the Amount of your half Yearly Expenses, In which those incurred upon this Occasion, will of course be included. I am with great Regard

Dear Sir,

Your most Obedient

humble Servant

Sir William Johnson Bt THOS GAGE.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

New York Dec. 20th. 1767.

DEAR SIR

Since my last to you, I wrote to Governors Penn and Fauquiere, setting forth the Calamities which threatened their Provinces from the encroachments which had been made by the People from both, upon the Indians Lands; the necessity to remove them forceably, and if the present Laws were not sufficient to protect the Indians in their Persons and Properties, or the Coercive Powers of Government too weak to restrain such a Lawless Banditti, it seemed to me proper to make new Laws, and strengthen the Hands of Government: and offered all the military aid in my Power to effect so salutary a work. I have not yet heard from Mr. Fauquiere, but Governor Penn shews the greatest readiness to cooperate with me, and tells me that he shall lay the matter before his Assembly, & recommend it in the strongest manner to them, to concur with him in the most certain expedients for the Removal of all the People settled on the Indian's Lands within the Province, which has been hitherto attempted in vain by Proclamations, and Threats of Military Execution and also in order to enable him effectualy to exert the Powers of Government, to frame such a Law as will be fully sufficient to compel those Intruders to pay due submission to the Civil Authority.

There are hopes therefore that something effectual will be done in this Business, which appears to be one of the main objects of the Indian's disgust, and may be said to be a real Grievance.

I am with great Regard Dear Sir,

your most obedient,

humble servant,

Sr. Wm. Johnson Bart. THOS. GAGE.

SIR W^M. JOHNSON TO GEN'L GAGE.

Johnson-hall December 24th. 1767.

Dear Sir,

I have your favors of the 6th and 14th of this Inst. and I am very glad to find that you have wrote in the manner you mention to the Governors which will I hope produce more attention to the Redress of the Grievances complained of.

The main object of the Indians resentment is what they will not probably be so ingenious as to confess.—But it is obvious to me that the first principle of their discontent arises from the natural apprehensions they have of our growing power, which they cannot view without the utmost jealousy, accompanied by a fear which they will not however acknowledge, under these Circumstances they are doubtless alarmed upon every Occasion How much more must such alarms be increased when so many of those who are now his Majestys Subjects, as well as others, find an Interest in contributing to strengthen their Suspicions & render their discontent subservient to their private purposes, when so many of his Majestys natural born Subjects, have been guilty of Murder, fraud, and Intrusion, and when they are not only disappointed of the promised redress, but also of the presents favors and benefits they were told of if we succeeded in our War with France—Many promises were found necessary to be made by the Government, & by Commanders in Chief &^ca which they see no prospect of our performing, these together with the Wrongs & Intrusions they continue to meet with are to them a plain manifestation of our dislike & of our intentions to destroy their Libertys—Thus Excited by Revenge for present Injuries, and alarmed at their Apprehensions of the future their politicks Lead them to make incursions upon us for the Gratification of their darling passion, and to destroy & retard the Growth of these Settlements which they fear will finally swallow them up. These are my real sentiments in the matter, and the Case between us now is Whether the Government think it worth attention to remove their apprehensions and reconcile them to a pacific Life by a redress of Grievances, & by some Efficacious plan for preventing the Like hereafter, with an occasional attention to their affairs & distribution of some favors am^st them, or to

leave Matters as they now stand, and the Frontiers & Trade exposed to the constant apprehensions of a fate which they have several times experienced on that account, and which they have more than ever reason to dread inasmuch as our present encrease & power has Excited the Jealousy of Nations, whose Names were a few years ago unknown to the majority of the Colonists.

As to what you say on the particular Case of *Kayadarosseras*, I have been already applied to by the Pattentees, and have in consequence thereof endeavored to effect an accommodation between them, and the Indians by the formers relinquishing their Claim to a part of the Tract, but there are so many Claimants under the Orig^{l} Grant that it will be difficult if not impossible to get a Suffic^{t} Release w^{ch} wo^{d} bar all future pretensions, & therefore were the Ind^{s}. heartily disposed to such Terms, an Imposition of that nature, (an Instance of which has lately been experienced) wo^{d}. not only destroy their opinion of the Officers of the Crown, but be productive of very dangerous consequence, the Whole Confederacy having interested themselves warmly in it.

Particular Instances can be given of Frauds, & Misconduct of Traders, but should they come to posts without having given Security, or if there is any reason to apprehend they would be acquitted, it is better to let them alone,—this I have Experienced, & am certain of it that in matters regarding the Ind^{s}. who are incapable of allowing for the prejudice of a party, or the Nicetys of the Common Law, should the accusation be reasonable, & yet thro' some defect in the Laws, or other reason redress is not obtained, it were better never to Attempt it—The want of power in the Laws which were not framed with an Eye to the peculiar compact between the Ind^{s}. & us, has been admitted by sev^{l}. Gentlemen learned in that profession, & the necessity there is for making a particular provision in these Cases has been pointed out.

The *Saguinam* Indians doubtless knew those they killed, I consider that as a prelude to what we are to Expect, & that these Excuses are only to gain time,—I have a Letter from L^{t}. Gov^{r}. Fauquiere inclosing a Speech sent by the Delawares, wherein they are desirous to meet him having (as they say) Sundry Grievances to complain of.

The Approach of the Cherokee Deputys at this time is a little unlucky, as it is a bad Season to assemble the Six Nations however I shall do it imediately, but am greatly distressed about provisions, there is none at Albany, or the posts & Cattle neither being plenty or Cheap here I shall be obliged to send for them to New England, & as It will be a good opportunity for me to do something with the Six Nations, & that the peace with the Cherokees is recommended to me so strongly by Lord Shelburne I must beg to be furnished with abt. £500 Sterling for defraying the Expenses & getting the necessary articles in time.

From what you have said I shall not augment the Sallarys till I hear farther notwithstanding I considered it as a saving to the Crown, and a much more regular method than the present which was the only reason for my proposing it, & this I signified to the Secy of State.

Genl. Gage.

III

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson-hall Dec. 26th. 1767.

Dear Sir

This will be delivered to you by Lieut Roberts who arrived here some days ago. It is Judged necessary that as he was sent as a prisoner from Michilimackc. he should wait upon you notwithstanding he was not received as such by the Comds Officer at the Detroit, to whom he was ordered to be delivered up, but was left at Liberty to go where he pleased.

From the Conduct of the Commandant of Michilimackinac it is evident that the principal cause of the difference arose from his aversion to any Officer who might detect or interfere with him. The principal dispute which arose on the Seizure of the Rum is certainly in favor of Mr. Roberts who as he discovered & Seized it was liable to answer for the same, and indeed if A Commanding Officer will interfere in matters of Trade, or any other points which falls within the Limits of Duty prescribed & approved of by Government, the Appointment of a Commissary is only an Unnecessary charge to the Crown—besides that Such Treatment Lessens

a Commissary in the Eyes of the Indˢ. who have been told agreable to Orders that that Officer was to have the sole Management of their Indian Affairs & Trade. Mʳ. Roberts might have been more Cool, but when we consider the Man he had to deal with, and the discoveries he had Just made concerning his designs, it will in a great measure accot. for his conduct and the Letters I have received in his behalf as will from the officers & Traders appear much in his favor. He thinks himself Greatly Injured but you will be the best Judge on hearing what he has to Say & Examining the papers which he'll lay before you As the Bonds &c. entered into by the Traders are in his hands & that the most necessary time for a Commissʸˢ presence is Early in the Spring I think it best that he should return to his post after waiting upon you without any other delay than what the Season may create, and I believe the most Expeditious way for his return will be by Montreal & the *Ottawa River* which is Generally open sometime before the Straits of *Niagara.*

Mr. Roberts has been not only injured in his character but put to a Great Expense by his Journey the amount of which I think he should be allowed for & therefore take the Liberty to recommend it to you, he has likewise accotˢ of expenses incurred Lately, which if paid now would do him real service.

Genrˡ. Gage.

SIR Wᴹ. JOHNSON TO THE EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.

Johnson-hall, July 20th 1768.

My Lord,

Mʳ Johnson my Deputy has during my Absence received your Lordships Letters Numbrˢ one, two and three, and acquainted you with the occasion of my going to the sea side from whence I returned a few days ago somewhat recovered of my late Indisposition—he likewise reported in General terms to your Lordship the steps taken towards effecting the Boundary Line with the Indians, and the Occurrences since my Departure—

It remains for me now, more fully to Acknowledge the receipt of your Lordships Letters with the Report of the board of Trade,

Sincerely to Congratulate you on your late Appointment and dutifully to Submit my thoughts, on the Reform which as an Old, and I believe a most faithfull Servant to the Crown, I am enabled and bound to offer to his Majestys Consideration, wherein I shall Speak without the Smallest Interest or prejudice beyond what in me naturally arises for the true Interests of the Crown, and the happiness of the people as far as they depend on the pacific disposition of the Indians within my District, Should any thing that I offer appear worthy Attention it will in any Situation of Life yield me the highest Satisfaction, & by its Effects point out its Utility, but should it on the contrary meet with a different reception, The Consideration of the importance of the Subject, the necessary Connection I have with it, the Experience I may be supposed to have acquired in these matters, and above all the laudable Motives which induce me to the Task will I persuade myself Justify my intention, whilst it affords me the pleasing reflection that I have faithfully discharged my Duty.

Your Lordship will please to recollect that the plan for the more effectual regulating of Indian affairs which came out in 1764 was formed under your Lordships direction & honored with his Majesty's Approbation when you so Wisely presided at the head of the Board of Trade, and has been since in part carried into Execut^{n} attended with as much Success as could have been possibly expected from the powers committed to me on which subject I have often since Wrote, and at sundry times offered my humble Sentiments towards such Amendments therein, as seemed most reconcileable to the different Views & Interests of the Americans, That Agreeable to my Instructions I did then & since give the strongest assurances to all the Nations of Ind^{s} tho' out of my District that the same would be firmly established by such Authority & in such manner, as to effectually remove all their uneassinesses, That on these Assurances the Majority of them relied, and from the Expectation of that Establishment they have been hitherto withheld from committing Outrages, the consequences of their own Unsettled minds, their Strong Jealousies of our Power and Views since the reduction of Canada, and the Misconduct of sundry Persons in the Colonies which has daily encreased. That notwithstanding I was

not impowered to Carry this plan effectually into Execution and that some parts of it however Judicious & political appeared from reasons that occurred since impracticable to be inforced, yet I have still received Assurances that something Similar thereto was under Consideration, & that I should speedily receive such powers as would Answer those ends & that in the interim I should give the Indians such Assurances & take such Measures, as would make them easy till the same was Established, By taking Great pains, and by repeating these Assurances I have been hitherto enabled, notwithstanding their impatience to preserve peace, which has been solely owing to these Measures & to their Expectations founded thereon.

The present Reform, proposed by the Lords of Trade for the Indian Department seems very Judiciously framed according to the Object it seems to have had in view by Committing Comercial affairs to the care of y^e^ Colonies with intent principally to the retrenching Expenses, founded on an Expectation that the Colonies sensible of their former errors will manage better in future.

Now, my Lords, was I governed by Interest, or did it in any manner influence my Representations, I should not offer any farther thoughts upon it seeing that my Sallary is augmented, and my Cares and Trouble in some measure Lessened, Considerations of no small Weight with the generality of Mankind, but when I reflect that this Reform is a matter of the most serious Consequence, That its final Operations, require the strictest Canvassing, That the Consequences of mismanagement have such Weight with the board of Trade as to induce them to say That were it probable it should again take place "They would not hesitate in declaring their opinion against the propriety of suffering the management of this Concern ever to revert into the hands of the Colonies." I say my Lord, when I duly consider all this I cannot but Conclude it my Imediate Duty to offer my humble thoughts, and throw all possible Light on the Obscure parts of Indian Affairs which being a Terra Incognita, inaccessible to the Generality of even inquirers is thereby more Liable to Misrepresentations than any other subject.

I shall therefore proceed to take a short View of the state of the Colonies & Indians previous to the late War with The Changes

produced in the politicks and Sentiments of both, from a Consideration of which I flatter myself some Conclusions may be drawn relative to the Event of the present System & its future Operations.

The General misconduct & Neglect of Provincial managem^{t}. is too well known and has been repeatedly Expressed as the sense of Government, It is however said by some that they formerly managed the Indians at a very Cheap & Easy rate, & that they were in gen^{l} peaceable the conclusion to be drawn from thence is, That they had best to have them again in their hands which I am not at all Surprised that many persons concerned in Trade should wish for, I own I shall readily admit that their Transactions were attended with very little Expense, and I know what they lost by their Economy, the manner and success of their management will require to be more particularly discussed.

The English were unknown to the Western Confederacy before this Century, and the Nature of Our Government, Genius & pursuits of our people, prevented them from being objects of Jealousy to the Six Nations & others with whom they were somewhat acquainted, The little we had to do with them was easily & reasonably transacted whilst they had few suspicions of our designs, a slender opinion of our power and Abilities, and whilst the Inhabitants & Traders thro' fear were cautious of giving them offence, On the other hand they saw a small but Vigorous enterprising Colony in Canada, whose Government, Pursuits, and Genius, Led them to make bold advances, to carry War into the midst of their Country, and whose Politicks set one Nation against another which enabled them to penetrate into the Western Territory, and to form Alliances and Trade with Nations entire strangers to us With one or other of whomthey were nevertheless Generally at War. These were a people suffic^{t} to alarm the Jealousy of Indians, Their Eyes were fixed upon them, & they were glad to see an other European power in the Country, and Indeed for the Greatest part of this Century I cant find that the Ind^{s}. were undeceived concerning us, Nevertheless in proportion as they became acquainted with Europeans, and courted by both parties, their Wants encreased, as did the Expences attending

them for the French spared neither pains or money upon these occasions, whilst we avoided both, & what little was given was so ill timed, and passed thro' the hands of such Avaricious, Ignorant & Slothfull managers, as rendered it of little or no purpose, So that whoever shall peruse the Records of Indⁿ. affairs will find that their Complaints have been encreasing from the Comencemᵗ. of this Century & their defectⁿ. from our Interest is as visible till at the breaking out of the late War they were totally alienated from our Interest At which time the Indˢ. were so far improved in Knowledge & Avarice that their Services became very Expensive & some Gentlemen contributed thereto by unsuccessfull endeavors to acquire an undue Influence amongst them, The Western Indˢ. even at this time were little known, and much prejudiced against us thro' the Suggestions of the French, & our own misconduct to those few who sometimes resorted to Osswego as I once before related, and as for those who were better acquainted with us, altho' they still retained but a Slender Opinion of our Abilities, they nevertheless grew alarmed & suspicious on observing our encrease and the advancement of our settlements, which joined to a Dislike that had been gradually encreasing rendered the appointment of a Superintendᵗ extreamly necessary had no War broke out with France. The Conquest of Canada being compleated in 1760, we were to enter into alliance, which would make a Tenfold addition of Indians, Our Troops took possession of the Forts, in the Western Country, & our Traders flocked thither with Goods. The French saw that they must share with other Colonies that Trade which they before held unrivalled, and many of them flattering themselves with the hopes of a Change & stimulated by interest spread false reports amongst the Indians, at the same time those residing in the Western Country & some of their Partizans who had retreated thither on the reduction of Montreal were very busy in alarming the Jealousies of these our new allies, occasioned a Genˡ. Confederacy agᵗ. us, on which I went to Detroit in 1761. where I held a Treaty with them gave them strong assurances of his Majestys favor, & that measures wod be taken for preventing abuses, Encroachments &c whereby I for that time prevented their designs, and on my return represented the necessity for such

Establishments, as wo^{d}. remove their suspicions & preserve peace and Order, but before any thing was done therein, the Artifices of the French, misconduct of our people and Suspicions of the Indians (all which have been often represented) produced the War in 1763. which thro means of a Vigorous Expedition, and by employing one Nation ag^{t} another was terminated the year following. One of the principal Causes of this War was the Apparent Change in our behavior to the Indians, the Want of proper Agents with fit Power amongst them, and the Alarming Circumstance of our being the Sole Europeans here by the reduction of Canada,—Those Numerous Nations to whom we were introduced by the Conquest had their Natural aversions—aggravated by this circumstance, & our Old Allies began to be much alarmed at it This was one of the Natural consequences of our great Encrease of our advancem^{t} into this Country & of the Enlargement of our connections with them & could only be surmounted by degrees by favors & a seeming Attention to their Interests, establishments for their Affairs, & some summary Method of Obtaining Justice our people are not inclined to do this, They began to think them unworthy attention they Encroached upon them, Insulted, & wronged them, and altho they paid dear for this during the Indian War, yet no sooner was it terminated in 1764, than elated thereby, & by the Conquest of Canada, and seemingly insensible that this Conquest had encreased the Number of our Indian Enemys & rendered the Managing them an Affair of much more difficulty than before they pushed on their Encroachments, & at last began to proceed to Rob & Murder them wherever they met them the Gen^{l} turn & Sentiments of our people will in spight of convict^{n} Lead them to those Errors,—The plan w^{ch} came over that Year met with Sev^{l} delays, and thereby time was given to all those whose imediate prospects of advantage might be frustrated by its Establishment to represent the Necessity of a Gen^{l} Indulgence to Trade where they pleased, The French in the Indian Country were at the bottom of this, they knew that if once they were permitted to bring Goods there they could secure that part of the Trade to themselves by their Politicks, The event has Justified this, The Ind^{ns} have began already to murder our Traders & the French have aided in plundering them

& persuaded the Ind^{ns} to threaten all English with death who shall enter their Country, In short they have been only hitherto prevented from taking arms thro their reliance on my Assurances from time to time in the Name of Governm^{t} That their Affairs were under Consideration, that they might be assured that such Authority sho^{d} be given to the Managers of their Affairs as would remedy those Abuses of which they have so often Complained, and of which the Crown seems to be so sensible. Their Reliance is & has been entirely on the Crown thro' the powers Vested in its Officer, founded on a Certainty of the utter impossibility of receiving it at other hands whether the same be owing to Inexperience, Want of Leisure, disinclenation, The want of Legal provision adapted to the peculiarity of their Affairs, or to that particular biass of the Colonists which operates so much to the disadvantage of the Indians, throughout their Various subjects of Contention, whether in the Ordinary pursuit of their Landed or Commercial Interests in America.

These points in the Course of my Correspondence with his Majestys Ministers have been more than once enlarged on and I see with satisfaction that your Lordship & the Board of Trade are persuaded of their Gen^{l}. truth, and therefore I might have avoided giving your Lordship the Trouble of perusing so long a detail, did It not contain some Circumstances which will point out the difficulties I must expect to encounter, in reconciling the whole of the Measures according to the reform to the minds of the Ind^{s}. & produce some thoughts from the Consideration of which I flatter myself that your Lordship will think it necessary to the public Quiet, that the Colonies have ample directions for the good Management of Affairs of Commerce as there is reason to apprehend they will not incline to be at much trouble or expense about them. These thoughts are with all becoming deference Humbly submitted to your Lordship. I am to assure your Lordship that I shall Lose no time in compleating & fulfilling his Majestys orders touching the carrying the Reform into Execution omitting no pains necessary for explaining & reconciling it to the Indians relying on his Majestys support for the more effectual discharge of the rest of the Dutys remaining under my Super Intendancy which I shall always

endeavor to perform in the best manner but there are some points necessary thereto which it is my Duty to lay before y^r^ Lordship.

The Northern & Southern Departments are put on the same allowance, altho The Northern has been always considered & admitted to be by much the Most Considerable & respectable whether as to the Number of Indians Their Dispositions, or the Circumstances attending their Affairs & Management^t^. And as ann^l^ presents must be given to the Western Ind^s^. Six Nations, Those of Canada & the Shawanese & Delawares, I submit it to your Lordship whether there is a possibility of doing this & providing for all other necessary Contingencies on £3000. p An. In the next place The absolute necessity there is for my having some subordinate Officers for the Carrying on the various operations & dutys of this Office, Those Deputys & Interpreters who are Essential thereto do not appear to have a provision made for them the sum I formerly proposed for a present alone was £4000 The Contingencies are besides as uncertain as they are innumerable, & as I am directed to remove all those Officers who were established for the Ind^n^ Trade, which are the Commissarys, Smiths at the posts &c the future Want of those Corresponding Agents, will in many respects add to the Trouble as well as the Expense of Management, so that the Deptys who are long Established cannot be paid out of the am^t^ £3000. with^t^ omitting some other Essential part of the Service, nor can theirs be dispensed with. But that the service may not suffer thro the Want of what is necessary & reasonable I shall endeavor to settle the matter with the Com^r^. in Chief of the Army in the best manner I can, hoping it will merit approbation.

The other Affairs of the Department, the necessity for continuing the boundary Line Northerly from Owegy so as to Establish bounds between them & New York in such manner as the Ind^s^. shall be prevailed upon to agree to, I hope to receive your Lordships Com^ds^. upon.—As to the other objects of Concern & the Extraordinary Intelligences received I am doing all in my power thereon, and hope to lay them & other matters more fully before y^r^. Lordship in my next,—but the subject of this letter having a ready drawn it out to an immoderate Length I must for the present draw to a Conclusion by Expressing my Humble

Gratitude to his Majesty for the Augmentation of my Sallary & my sincere thanks to your Lordship, assuring you that I should not desire it, longer than I was able to do real service & that as all my proposals have been directed with that view the same shall ever remain the invariable rule of my Conduct, thro' which I persuade myself of his Majestys favor and the Continuance of y^{r}. Lordships Countenance.

I have the Honor to be

Endorsed, July 20th. 1768.

To the Earle of Hillsboro.

Points out the Necessity of an add^{l}. allowan^{ce} for the Dep^{tys} &c.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson Hall Augt 17th 1768.

My Lord

I had the honor of addressing a Letter (N^{o}. 2) of the 20th ulto to your Lordship, imediately after my return from the Sea coast, therein I took the liberty to offer some thoughts concerning the present Reform and Arrangements Some of which I flatter myself would prove Seasonable.

Since I wrote that Letter a Chief of the Chipeweighs the most powerful Nation to the westward arrived here on an Embassy with Sev^{l}. others, as he is a man of much Influence and can bring some thousands of his people into the Field, I took particular notice of him formerly at Niagara Since which he has behaved very well, and now came to be informed of my Sentiments, on the uneasy State of the Indians to the Westward, he told me that his people would quietly wait his return before they took any resolutions, Confirmed all the Accots I have received of the practices of the Spaniards and French, of the Assurances they give them of assistance from Europe, and of the Belts, Messages and presents sent amongst them, They are endeavouring to encrease the spirit of distrust Jealousy & Aversion by every means in their power, amongst the Indians & it will be utterly impossible to keep them all quiet without silencing those Incendiaries who are amongst them.

I wish the Colonies may act wisely in the management of the Indian Trade as a good deal will depend upon it at this time. This will require much pains & Expence, else they must not expect to send any Traders into the Indian Country, altho the Much greater part of those who go a Trading are men of such circumstances and Dispositions as to venture their persons any where for Extravagant gains, yet the consequences to the public are not to be slighted, as we may be led into a Gen^{l}. Quarrel thro' their means. The Indians in the parts adjacent to Michilimackinac have been treated with at a very great Expence for some time past. Major Rogers brings a considerable charge ag^{t}. the Crown for Mediating a peace between some Tribes of the Sioux and some Chippeweighs which had it been attended with success would have been only interesting to a verry few French & others that had Goods in that part of the Indian Country, but the contrary has happened, and they are now more Violent than ever ag^{t}. one another, which perhaps is not an unfavourable Circumstance for us at this Juncture, but the Ind^{s}. on finding that they are to receive large presents for promising to lay down their Arms will never want occaisions of Quarrell with one another.

I should inform your Lordship that agreable to a former Letter of mine to the Earl of Shelburne, the patentees of the disputed Tract called Kayadarosseras sent an agent to Treat with the Indians whom my Deputy summoned to attend for that purpose in the presence of Sir Hen^{y} Moore during my absence from home, but the Agent not having brought an Original Indian Deed, or a proper Survey of the Tract, they did not agree, Since my return having found an Orig^{l}. Indian Deed & had their Line run the Patentees, again applied to me, and the same was recommended by Letter from Sir H. Moore in consequence of which on the Arrival of their Agents they met the Mohocks who on Examining the Indian deed & Survey, & receiving a handsome sum of money were at length prevailed on to yield their claim to the Patentees in my presence, This will save some trouble, and Expence to the Crown as according to the opinion of the Lawyers there were not sufficient grounds to proceed ag^{t}. the Patent with any prospect of success in a Court of Law.

In addition to what I formerly mentioned, concerning the Boundary Line on which I expect shortly to meet the Indians, I have only to express my desire of hearing from your Lordship concerning that part relating to the Province of New York Should I not be honored with your Commands previous to the Congress I shall endeavour to do it in the best manner I can—as I have all along conceived & as it is understood by the Commander in Chief, the Boundary is a matter of a General Nature, Negotiated on the part of his Majesty with the Indians & that whatever Cession they make is in Consideration of an Adequate present to be solely at the disposal of the King in all Royal Governm^{ts} & may be Granted by him to any of his Subjects by Mandamus or otherwise without farther purchase from, or treaty with the Indians, I am hopefull that this construction is the Sense & Intention of Government, as I believe it to be the most effectual means of preventing disputes, At the same time it is presumed that all those UnLocated Land at the Back of the Colonies which Shall be So ceded to his Majesty by the Indians will be added to and become a part of Such Provinces as have just claims, or pretensions to Comprehend them within their bounds, or with which they may be most naturally conected, but with this I apprehend I have nothing to do, and that my duty is solely to treat with & obtain a Cession for, and on behalf of the Crown of a Tract of Country along the frontiers, the rere of which is to be the Boundary Line between the English in General, and the Sev^{l}. Indian Nations, agreeable to w^{ch} I mean to act, according to my best judgment, and as correspond^{t}. as possible with the Line described on the Map Transmitted by your Lordship, hoping that the Commissioners from the Governments who attend the Treaty will be enabled to give the Strongest & most Satisfactory assurances to the Indians that no Encroachments Shall be made by any of the Inhabit^{s} on their Lands beyond that Line, and this cannot be too firmly Guarded & secured for should it hereafter be invaded, and the agreements violated on our parts it were better they had never been entered into.

In my last I took the Liberty to observe to your Lordship concerning the Slender provisions made for the Expences of my Department which had been always considered as the most consid-

erable & by much the most important of the two Superintendencys, That no mention is made of my Depys or of Interpreters without whom the business of the Department, could not be conducted, that the former were officers indispensably necessary for the managemt of affairs in the Distant & Different Quarters for many years past, and existing long before any Plan for Trade was adopted, & that the Interpreters, must be always considered as wanting.

The Commissioners were the only officers appointed for the Management of the Trade & their expenses far Exceeded that of all the rest of this Departmt. occasioned principally by our havg. newly got possessn. of the out posts and they are now to be discontinued but a due consideration of the importance of the other dutys to be performed by the department, and of their Multifarious Nature will evince the Necessity there is for some proper Subordinate Officers & Interpreters, which cannot be provided for out of the sum allotted, one thousand pounds p ann of which being for my Sallary, the remaining £300, will I fear be found an inadequate sum for Annl. presents to three large Confederacys of Indians, & other incidental Expences on which the public Tranquility here does in a great measure depend, without a possibility of applying any part of it to the support of such Officers & Assistants as I have repeatedly Shown the Necessity for. But to Manifest my Zeal & readiness to carry on the Management of Indian affairs on a New Arrangement in the manner they ought to be Conducted, I presumed to propose an addition of £1000. p Ann for the Sallarys of 3 Depys & Interpreters, and Small as the other Sum may appear resolved to endeavor my utmost that it should answer the purposes of promoting Tranquility & Extending his Majesties Interest, with this View I transmit to Genl Gage Commander in chief an Estimate of the Expenses & application of the Sum proposed on the New Arrangement wherein I have proposed the additn of £1000 p ann for 3 Depys 4 Interpreters & a Messenger In this (besides the Sallarys & expenses of the Commissaries now to be discontinued) there is no provision made for a Secretary, Clerk, Storekeeper, Smiths, charges of Transportation of Goods &c., and one Depy. is Likewise omitted because as my 4th Depy. has been very lately instituted by direction of his

Grace the Duke of Richmond for the peculiar province of Nova Scotia the necessity of his continuance is submitted to your Lordship, as to a Secretary he cannot be dispensed with, the Entrys of proceedings and preservg. the Records of all Indian Transactions being as necessary as it is troublesome, but I have not included his Sallary it being usually paid out of the Receiver Generals Office of the Provce of N. York at the rate of £100 Ster p ann to wch I generally procured an addition, as no man properly Qualified will undertake that troublesome duty in this Country on Such a Sallary. My Depys considering their respective dutys, the Expences to which they are liable & that there is no allowance for Travelling charges &c. will find 200 Ster p ann a very Slender provisn for them, & every other Sallary is rated as Low as men can be procured Qualified for their offices. So that I flatter myself your Lordship will find that the Moderate addition I propose wch will make the whole Annl. Expence but £5000 Ster including my own & officers Sallarys, is a very trifling Sum for conducting affairs of Such publick importance. From my sense of the State of Indian affairs I humbly recommend it to your Lordship, and I have only to wish that it may be found sufficient for preservg. peace and order, and promoting those objects of publick concern that depend on the Establishment of proper men, & the pursuit of proper measures in the discharge of the various dutys appertaining to my office.

I have the Honr. to be &c.

Endorsed
To Ld Hillsborough
17 Aug. 1768.

LORD HILLSBOROUGH TO Sr Wm. JOHNSON.

Whitehall 12th October 1768.

Sir,

The experience the King has had of your ability and zeal for His service, in the department of Indian affairs, will always induce His Majesty to give attention to whatever you may think fit to submit upon that subject. His Majesty has therefore fully considered the remarks you make in your letter to me No 2, upon the present state of the service under your direction; and it gives His

Majesty great satisfaction to find, that the arrangements pointed out in my letter of the 15th of April, are, in your opinion, judiciously calculated to answer the object they have in view.

It is not however upon the propriety of the propositions themselves that the advantage of them altogether depends, it is upon the execution of them, and upon the regulations, which the colonies shall think fit to adopt for the management of the commercial part, that we are to rely for those benefits which are intended to be the result of them.

The relieving this kingdom from every expence, that can with safety be avoided, is, in its present state, a consideration of the greatest importance, it is one great object of this plan, and I have it in command from the King in an especial manner to recommend to you the strictest Œconomy in those services, the expence of which is to be defrayed by this Kingdom; and it is His Majesty's pleasure that, after consulting with General Gage, you should make out some certain Estimate of what you think the state of the service in your department may require, to be laid before His Majesty for His consideration, in order to the determining whether any greater sum than that recommended by the Board of Trade, should be finally allowed for this service. In the mean time, and untill you receive the King's further commands, it is His Majesty's pleasure that the annual expence of the service should on no account exceed that sum.

His Majesty observes by General Gage's letters, received at the same time with your's, that you have estimated the expence of running the boundary line at no less a sum than £10,000 Sterling, which, without knowing the ground on which this calculation is made, appears to imply demands on the part of the savages, which cannot but be thought very unreasonable, when it is considered that the settlement of this business has been so long earnestly solicited by them, and that the line proposed does in many places preclude from settlement lands that were before supposed not to be contested by them, and does in others add less to His Majesty's dominion than what themselves proposed in the negotiation with you in 1765.

If however, notwithstanding all the attention His Majesty is

persuaded you will give to Œconomy, in resisting every exorbitant demand, such expence is to be incurred, and the gratifications to the Indians on this occasion are so far to exceed what might reasonably have been hoped for, it becomes highly expedient that the colonies interested in this measure, and whose limits of settlement are extended by it, should be early apprized of what will be required, in order that they may make timely provision in proportion to the benefit they are respectively to receive from it; for it cannot, upon any grounds of reason or justice be expected, that this Kingdom should take upon itself the whole, or indeed any part, of the expence of a measure calculated for the local interests of particular Colonies.

His Majesty entirely approves the continuing the boundary line northward from Owegy, so as to include the province of New York, and thereby render the line perfect and complete; and I am to recommend to you that no time be lost in bringing this negotiation to a conclusion, in the conduct of which it will be necessary that Sir Henry Moore should be consulted, so that there may be a perfect agreement of all parties, by which alone those difficulties may be overcome, which occurred upon this subject in the negotiation of 1765, and which have hitherto made it impossible to give any precise directions from hence.

Having signified to you His Majesty's commands upon all those parts of your letter, upon which you desire instruction, I cannot avoid taking some notice of the observations you make upon the plan for Indian Affairs, prepared by the Lords of Trade in 1764, when I had the honour of a Seat at that Board: But before I make any remarks upon the plan itself as applied to the present state and circumstances of America, you will give me leave to observe to you, that the Lords of Trade did not consider it as a measure ripe for execution, and therefore did not report it to the King; but in order to enable themselves to form a more complete judgement of it, they transmitted it as minutes of their board to yourself and the Governors of the Colonies, for your consideration, and to receive your opinion upon the several propositions it contained: What you say therefore of its having met with His Majesty's approbation of its having been carried into execution, and of the assurances

given that it should be finally established, are circumstances of which I am entirely ignorant.

The propriety and practicability of carrying that plan into execution depended upon the possession of the interior country by posts and establishments, upon the concurrence of the colonies in an opinion of the commercial advantages of it, and upon the creating a fund in those colonies to defray the expence. But since it has been thought advisable to withdraw the troops from and to abandon the posts; since the colonies themselves do not think that a general regulation for commerce consists with their interests, and have each for itself desired to make its own regulations, and since it is become more difficult in the present state of the colonies to create a general fund to defray the expence, I must confess that I do entirely concur in the measures which have been proposed by the Board of Trade, and are the foundation of those instructions which I have it in charge from His Majesty to recommend to your attention, not doubting but that, through your assistance and with your advice, the colonies will be induced to adopt such regulations for the commercial part, as will improve the trade and fix the affection of the savages, and in the end produce all those advantages which you seem to think would have been derived from the execution of the plan suggested by the Board of Trade in 1764.

I am with much Esteem & Regard
Sir
Your Most Obedient
Humble Servant

Sir William Johnson Bart. HILLSBOROUGH.

SECY. POWNALL TO SIR WM. JOHNSON.

Whitehall 13th. October 1768.

SIR,

Your dispatch to the Earl of Hillsborough numbered 3, was received at this Office yesterday, and immediately communicated by express to his Lordship who is in the country at some distance.

I have his Lordship's directions to acquaint you that it will be impossible for him to write to you upon the subject of this dispatch

before the departure of the Packet for this Month which has been already detained beyond the time; but that he will take the first opportunity of laying it before the King & transmitting to you such commands as he may receive from His Majesty thereupon.

I am with great Regard
Sir,
Your most obed^{t}
humble servant
JOHN POWNALL.

Sir William Johnson.

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO LORD HILLSBOROUGH.

Fort Stanwix October 23d, 1768.

MY LORD

I was in hopes that about this time I should have been enabled to transmit your Lordship the agreable account of my having setled the boundary Line between Us and the Indians, but a train of unforeseen Accidents, together with a Variety of Obstructions given to it by the Spaniards and French at the Misisipi, and others Lurking amongst the Indians have, as yet, denyed me that pleasure, and rendered it a matter of difficulty sufficient to deterr many from the prosecution of it.

Not Expecting to have been detained here so long, or to have occasion to write to your Lordship before my return I have neither your Letters, nor my own at this place, but I recollect that my long letter N^{o}. 2 was the 20th. July and that I since wrote your Lordship about the beginning of last month.

On the 19th ult^{o}. I arrived at this place having appointed the 20th for the Indians to meet me, The Commissioners from Virginia set out before me, the Governor of New Jersey accompanied me, and I was followed by the Governor of Pennsylvania, The Gov^{r}. of N York thought it unnecessary to send Commissioners as I was to transact the business,—After waiting here sev^{l}. Days during which many Indians came in & Encamped I heard that the Shawanese, Delawares, & Senecas, with many others were still at a Considerable distance, & that sev^{l}. private Affairs & Conferences which they held at the Towns they passed thro,' would retard

them for a much longer time than could have been Expected, by the beginning of this month we had 805 Indians here, but the much greater part & those of the most consequence were still behind, I dispatched Messengers to hurry them, by whom I was informed of the sudden death of a Seneca Chief, and that the Condolances usual on such Occasions would detain them some days more in the Senecas Country which they had then reached, I was much concerned on this occasion by reason of the great Consumption of provisions & the heavy Expences attending the maintenance of those Indians on the Spot whose numbers amounted by the 14th of this Instant to 930, each of whom consumes daily more than Two ordinary men amongst us, & would be extremely dissatisfied if Stinted when convened for business,—but altho' this circumstance alone was very disagreable, from the difficulty of getting provisions, there being none nearer than Albany & very little there, except some Cattle at an Extravagant price I had yet more cause to be uneasy from the certain discovery I had made of the minds of many of the Nations, of the private belts and messages passing from the one to the other, of the purport of their Secret Councils, and of the false Reports & misrepresentations circulating amongst them, As my last and former Letters will shew their disappointment that no plan had been hitherto adopted (as they had been promised) with due regard to the peculiar circumstances of their situation, with proper powers in the Department for the discharge of their sevl. affairs I need not to add more than that it has had a Visible Effect upon them all, and that their Suggestions arising therefrom have a bad tendency, When this is considered together with the errors misconduct & frauds which they must Experience thro' the want of those powers and regulations, the encouragement thereby given to our Natural Enemys and the success of their endeavors to withdraw the Indians from us will appear rather a matter of concern than of surprize, That this is really the case at present I am but too well satisfied. I have for a considerable time past represented, the secret practices & endeavors of both Spaniards & French in the names of their respective Sovereigns to render us Odious to the Indians, to unite them against us and to persuade them to renew hostilities under

the prospect of aid which it is more than probable they would afford them the first occasion that offered, to effect this they avail themselves of every circumstance in the affairs of *America*, of every instance of our ill treatment, & of every uneasiness manifested by the Indians, The Reduction of Officers & Retrenchment of Expences in the Indian Departm^{t} has been already represented by their Agents as Instances of our parsimony, Neglect & Contempt, and the want of any powers for their relief as marks of our Injustice and disregard, The unrestrained conduct & cheats of the Traders have been given, as characteristick proofs of our dishonesty & want of authority, The neglect of sending Missionaries of our Church amongst them, as an Instance of our Irreligion, in short there is nothing within the compass of their knowledge of which they have not made use, thro' the means of Agents of much Influence, supported by Gentle Treatment, and confirmed by handsome presents, All this is carried on with a secrecy which renders it the more dangerous, the public in general are ignorant hereof, & unguarded against them, & thus American affairs are represented as best suits the views of party, or the pursuits of Interest.—It has been admitted & is most certain that the Colonies can neither attend to these matters or correspond in sentiments so as to defeat these designs. All these affairs are properly the Task of a person under his Majestys imediate direction & is it possible, my Lord, that such person can oppose himself to an Enemy so powerfull without proper support & some Assistants, It may appear improbable that the French or Spaniards sho^{d}. act this part, and still more so that they should act by authority; whilst a peace is subsisting between the British Crown & them, but be this as it will, certain it is that not only several known Partizans & many Traders but also some officers of their Troops have actually come into the Indian Country, where they have conducted themselves as is represented, and their Councils have not only greatly retarded the measures we are now taking but threaten this country with farther Calamities.—The Indians who seemed most desirous of a boundary line, are now either indifferent about it, or apprehensive that we have something thereby in View which may be dangerous to their Libertys. The French &

Spaniards have given them a formal invitation, and used every means in their power to draw them to a Gen^{l}. Congress at the Misisipi. And I have undoubted authority for assuring your Lordship that had not my Belts and Messages arrived when they did to the Southward, the Chiefs would have complied with the Invitation.

The accot^{s}, from all Quarters corroborate, the Indians dissatisfied with us for the reasons I have given, & Intoxicated with the storys and promises of designing Men seem to wait the event of this Congress, as of an affair which is to determine their conduct, and to Expect at this time some final & certain assurances of an attention to be Given to their Affairs, and a Redress to their Grievances, to which the Boundary is foreign being a single Object the advantages of which (If the Colonists should pay due regard to it) cannot be felt by any of the Ind^{n}. Nations for some time, and are at best Local, & confined to one Confederacy.

Notwithstanding this disagreeable aspect of affairs, the difficulties I have to encounter, and the want of authority for giving the Ind^{s}. a satisfactory assurance on many subjects of their concern, I am determined to persevere, in the Execution of my Orders as well as in every endeavor which shall appear to me most necessary at this Juncture to the best of my Judgment, & the utmost Extent of an Iufluence which properly supported could I am fully persu^{d}. do his Majesty & the public good service & afford me better pretensions to your Lordships friendly regards an honor in the highest Estimation with My Lord

Your Lordships most obliged,

Obedient & faithful hum Serv^{t}.

W. J.

P. S. Oct^{r}. 25th. This Letter having Lain by till this day for want of Good opportunity I have only to add that our proceedings appear Loaded with fresh difficultys from the belts in the Ind^{s}. hands &c, we have only opened the Conference & the Ind^{s}. continue coming in, Their N^{o}. now here is near 3000.

LORD HILLSBOROUGH TO SIR Wm. JOHNSON.

Whitehall 15th. November 1768.

Sir,

Since the departure of the last Packet, your Letter to me No. 3 has been received, and laid before the King.

The unfriendly and unsettled disposition of the western Indians towards the British Interests and Government, occasioned, as you represent, by the artifices and intrigues of the French and Spaniards, is a matter of a very serious nature in whatever view it is considered, whether in reference to the present inconveniences arising out of the great expense of presents and other gratifications to keep them quiet, or in reference to the consequence that would follow from an open rupture with them.

From the accounts given of this matter by General Gage; and from the assurances he has received from Monsieur Aubry and Don Ulloa, there is great reason to suspect that our own new Subjects are the Authors of all the mischief, and therefore their conduct and proceedings in the Indian Country cannot be too narrowly watched, nor their treachery if detected, too severely punished.

If on the contrary there should notwithstanding the assurances given to General Gage, be any settled plan of seduction of the Indians adopted and attempted by France or Spain, every possible diligence and vigilance should be exerted to trace it to its source, and to verify the information by such facts and evidence as may justify the strongest representation and complaint.

As to the other matters contained in your Letter, and in particular what relates to the allowances for your department, and the continuation of the boundary Line so as to include New York, I have already, in my Letter No. 6, been very explicit thereupon, and I have now nothing further to add.

Inclosed I send you by the Kings command, His Majestys Speech to His Parliament at the opening of the Session on the 8th instant, together with the addresses to the King from both Houses, one of which Addresses passed nemine contradicente, and the other without a division.

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Queen was happily

brought to bed of a Princess on Tuesday last, and that both her Majesty and the young Princess are as well as can be desired. I most heartily congratulate you upon this increase of the royal Family; an event that affords the greatest satisfaction to all his Majestys Subjects.

I am Sir
Your Most Obedient
Humble Servant

Sir WILLIAM JOHNSON HILLSBOROUGH.

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO LORD HILLSBOROUGH.

Johnson Hall November 18th 1768.

MY LORD,

I had the honor to write your Lordship (No 4) from Fort Stanwix Just before the opening the Treaty, wherein I represented the many difficulties in the way to the settlement of the Line, which however I have at length Surmounted and Settled in a manner which will I hope be agreeable to his Majesty for the particulars of which I beg Leave to referr your Lordship to a Copy of my Transactions which I have now the honor to inclose together with a Deed of Cession to his Majesty for the Lands Yielded up to the Crown.

Your Lordship will find that the Six Nations, insisting on their right to the Lands as far South as the Cherokee River have Ceded the Same to his Majesty, and Notwithstanding that the Report of the board of Trade Spoke of Great Kanhawa River as their Southern bounds I found from what passed at sevl private Meetings, that I could not deny them the Liberty of asserting their pretensions to the Southward without highly disobliging them, and preventing the Settlement of the rest. From many former enquirys & disputes on these Subjects I never could find that the Cherokees claimed to the Westward of the Great Mountains or North of the River of their Name but that the Six Nations always did Claim thereto, I therefore Judged it for the interest of his Majesty to Acquiesce for these reasons That by their Cession of the Country below the Kanhawa to his Majesty Their pretensions must in future

cease Whereas should the Cherokees now or hereafter under Colour of a Claim farther North be treated with and Surrender it up, It would occasion much Expence and Trouble to obtain the Consent of the Northern Indians, who are a much more formidable people, all which is as I apprehend prevented by the present Cession, which is nevertheless submitted to his Majesty, The next point I have to observe to your Lordship is the Continuation of the Boundary line Northward from Owegy, The necessity of this I formerly remarked, and the Indians insisted on it, it is now Carried to Canada Creek, where it falls into Wood Creek, which last mentionedWater emptys into Oneida Lake, I found it Extremely difficult to get it so far to the Westward from its Vicinity to their own Towns, and indeed the Whole of the Line as it approached them cost me more pains and trouble than can be conceived, whilst at the same time the necessity of Establishing it where Intrusions would be most affecting to them was selfevident, Their Towns & Settlements are therefore secured to their satisfaction by Extending the Line to the Waters which discharge themselves into Lake Ontario but it is not Continued so as to Close, First, because I found that many of them were for Closing it by running to the Next Patented Lands which would have Limitted the Province of New York in such a Manner as must have produced some Complaints, Secondly, because as the Country North is the property of the *Oneidas & Mohocks* It can at any time hereafter be closed at a very moderate Expence Should his Majesty require it, as I find that the Mohocks are desirous to have it Closed & could be brought to do it Advantagiously on any future occasion,—I beg your Lordship will beleive that in all these matters where I had not particular Instructions I have acted to the best of my judgment for his Majestys Interest, The difficulties I had to Struggle with, by the artifices of the people at the Mississipi, and the doubts and surmises of the Indians themselves thro' the late misconduct of the frontier Inhabitants and the Length of time elapsed since the boundary was first spoken of can only be known by those who were eye witnesses of it, as the greatest part of the business Transacted at private meetings with the Chiefs where the principal affairs are resolved upon & adjusted could not be

committed to Writing or comprised in any moderate bounds. I have staked my reputation with the Indians that the several Articles they have made shall be observed, without which the Charges attending the Assembling them at this time and all other endeavors would have been Ineffectual, They have at length relied on my assurances and I am confident that the regard paid to them will be the only security for the observance of the Line,— The Indians likewise rely chiefly on his Majestys Power and inclination for the performance of these matters and for their future happiness and security, they have many apprehensions concerning the Colonies which I have endeavored to remove but I find it a difficult task, for they have Experienced how far private interests operate here, are not ignorant that the Colonies are Governed by different Maxims and politicks, and have been often disappointed in matters where they apprehended they deserved redress, are not apt to repose a Confidence a second time where it has been once abused.

The Provisions & other Incidental Expences attends this Treaty were unavoidable from the Number of Indians, & the Length of time it took up, The Amount of the Goods and Cash given on the part of the Crown was the most moderate that could have been offered for so Valuable & Extensive a cession, Upon the whole I flatter myself that this Transaction will be honored with his Majestys Approbation, from a consideration of the difficulties that attended it, & the important advantages to be derived from it if strictly adhered to.

As I am now busied in Giving some necessary belts and Messages to the Shawanese, and some others who have taken this rout back to their Country, and at the same time desirous to communicate by the earliest opportunity an event of such Importances I must for the present deferr saying any thing farther on this subject, and with a perfect reliance on your Lordships favorable reception of this pacquet, Beg leave to subscribe myself with all possible respect, My Lord,

Your Lordships most obliged

The R^{t} honble & most faithfull humble serv^{t}.

The Earl of Hillsborough.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

CONCERNING THE LAKE SUPERIOR COPPER MINES.

Johnson-hall, December 20th, 1768.

My Lord,

On my return from Fort Stanwix I had the honor to receive your Lordships of the 13th. August (N°. 5) with the enclosures concerning the Application to his Majesty for a Grant of Copper Mines near Lake Superior directing me to make enquirys concerning the same, to which I shod. have paid all due obedience sooner, but for the Pacquets & Dispatches I had to make up, and the multiplicity of affairs I had to order and regulate in consequence of the late Treaty.

I now proceed to consider the subject of your Lordship's Letter and the papers therewith transmitted. And first, as to the Ore. I have long since been well assured that there is not only a large Quantity of Copper Ore in the Environs of Lake Superior, but that on trials made on Samples of it, some of which I have seen, it has been found extraordinary good and rich. I likewise about 3 years ago saw an Estimate of the Expenses of taking up, & transporting &c. the most accessible of that Ore, of which I am well assured there are to all appearances entire Rocks; but this Estimate, which I have unluckily mislaid, was, to the best of my Recollection founded on the expectation that it wod. Continue to be obtained with very great ease, and that it could be transported, Refined &c. at rates which from the increased Value of Labour &c. in Canada since the reduction of that Country may now be much doubted, admitting that the Vein of Ore would continue equally rich and accessible. I have likewise understood that the Indians themselves would at a very trifling rate procure large Quantitys of it, to which I may answer that the Indians are a Lazy people, & naturally Enemies to Labour, and therefore it is much to be doubted whether interesting them in it would be attended with advantage, altho' the Inds. of that Country can be satisfied on much more reasonable terms than those who are more accustomed to receive favors from Europeans, particularly the French. I have also heard that some persons in Canada did formerly bring away a good deal of Ore from thence, and that

they lost by it, but whether this was owing to the Expense of bringing it down, or to bad management I can't say. The River Ottawa being obstructed by 42 Portages, small and great, would much retard & Enhance the transportation of so heavy an article, & give place to the carrying it by the Lakes as the most Elligible, notwithstanding the latter are at some seasons very uncertain & the navigation often tedious. The length and severity of the winter at Lake Superior will likewise require consideration both with regard to the provision to be made for those that sho^{d}. remain there & for their Cattle & Beasts of Burthen, and the very low wages of Battoemen & all Labourers in the time of the French when compared with the usual hire at this time, is also a matter that sho^{d}. be attended to.

I come now to consider what effect it might have as to his Majesty's Interests with respect to the Ind^{s}. Touching this, I am of opinion that if the Object in View is deemed worthy the pursuit, It cannot hereafter be prejudicial to his Majesty's Interests with the Indians, provided their consent is first obtained, that the utmost Care is taken to prevent their being wronged or ill-treated by any Concerned, and that no Settlements be undertaken, or Lands cultivated beyond what is barely necessary (& this too with their previous consent) until the times become more favorable, all which may be Effectual prevented by the Residence of an officer of the Indian Department on the part of the Crown, & by such Instructions and Authorities to the Super Intendant, or such other officer of the Crown as is most likely to remove any Cause of Complaint and afford them justice, and for the farther satisfaction of the Ind^{s}. & removing any suspicions they might entertain from the Conduct of any of the Company's Residents or Servants there, That an Appeal might lye before the Super Int^{dt}. or such other Officer as the Crown sho^{d}. direct.

With regard to the next consideration, as to the proper means to Induce their agreement to such Establishm^{ts}. as w^{d}. be necessary for obtain^{g}. the advantages stated to arise from that proposal as I have understood it, the principal advantages that may be Expected depend upon the Value & Importance of good mines rich in Copper, as any advantages to his Majesty's Interests with the

Ind^{ns} resulting from the proposals must be the effect of time, & will solely depend upon the good Conduct, Civil Treatment, & Strict Integrity of the Company's factors who if they can be expected to concur in so doing will doubtless by degrees acquire the system of the Indians and give them favorable prepossessions of the English, to which the adding some small presents occasionally, or making it in some measure their interest, would greatly contribute : but this must be as yet merely matter of speculation and uncertainty. On the other hand, the neighboring Nations, who are not interested in any advantages which those of Lake Superior may be supposed to enjoy, will probably prejudice them as much as possible against it, & use endeavors from time to time to distress the Company, in which they may be sometimes successfull, for it is most certain that the Jealousy of the Ind^{s} augments as we encrease, & however they may outwardly appear reconciled to such Settlements They consider every Beginning of ours in a very dangerous Light, & are thereby Led to commit acts of Violence before they allow us sufficient time to manifest, by a series of good treatment, the purity of our Intentions. I Judge it my Duty to remark what *may* happen. At the same time I am of opinion that provided the object is worthy attention, and that the Distance from the Sea, with the other Obstructions and Expences attending it, do not render the plan unprofitable, a Circumstance on which I cannot positively decide, the Ind^{s} may be reconciled to the Opening & Working those Mines, and that if strict care be taken to do them Justice in the manner I have already proposed, without any attempts to Private Settlements, or insisting upon Charter Rights as conveying property of soil, there is a prospect of its being enjoyed in security; and that to obtain their Consents the Chiefs of those Nat^{s} interested sho^{d} be assembled, when the whole sho^{d} be laid before them without Disguise, or making any promises but such as could and would be fully performed, and that on giving them a present & obtaining their Consent some persons of Interest amongst them sho^{d} accompany those who are to prosecute the design and carry the plan into execution, the future Success of which must depend upon the manner in which it is conducted, and upon the Temper

not only of those Indˢ whose property it is, but of many other nations.

I could have wished it were in my power to have more diligently enquired and to have offered more particular remarks regarding this proposal, but when it is known that I have scarcely had a moment's Leisure, from the number and importunitys of Indˢ since my return last month from the Treaty at Fort Stanwix, I persuade myself I shall be in some measure Excusable shoᵈ it appear that I have not been able to give it all the attention that was necessary ; and as I was desirous of Complying as soon as possible with his Majesty's orders by offering my thoughts upon the matter, which with the hopes of your Lordship's favorable Indulgence I now humbly submit to his Majesty's consideration.

The Rᵗ Honble The Earl of Hillsborough.

Endorsed,

"December 23ᵈ 1768. To the Earl of Hillsborough. Nº 6. Concerning the Mines near Lake Superior."

SIR Wᴹ. JOHNSON TO LT. GOV. COLDEN.

Johnson-hall Jany. 26th 1769.

Dear Sir,

I thank you most kindly for your Letter of the 10ᵗʰ. Inst nor ever meant to stand on punctilios with you about a Letter as I must from my sevˡ. avocations often trespass in my Correspondence, and indeed I should have wrote you long since but that ever since my last severe Illness I have been abroad either to try for health, or on publick business, and the Delays at the late Treaty kept me at Fort Stanwix two months—Indeed my remote situation furnishes me with very few topicks except as to Indian matters and the late Treaty, of which you have had an opportunity of hearing, and from which I am scarcely yet disengaged,—In return for your friendly wishes on the entrance of the new Year, I most cordially salute you with my sincere desires that you may pass through it with the full enjoyment of your health, and every other blessing you require.

I am of opinion that the (in some measure) dear bought Experi-

ence I have acquired of Indian affairs may yet be found wanting, and altho' I cannot think so favorably of myself as your friendship may induce you to do, I cannot help agreeing in the opinion of the impracticability of the Trades being conducted in a proper manner on the footing now proposed for reasons which I have little occasion to point out to you, nor is it probable they will ever come into the expence attending such establishments as are from the present state of our Indian connections absolutely Necessary, any more than they are likely to fall upon such prudent & Impartial Regulations as are or shall be wanting to secure the peaceable enjoym^{t}, of that branch of Trade. The referring that matter to the Albany Members, a circumstance which I had not before heard of, is a very unpromising beginning, and without the Gift of prophecy one may naturally draw the conclusion. In short the whole system of Indian politicks is changed Since the reduction of Canada we have now to do with a Vast body of new Allies, (or whatever they may be called) who with the rest View us in a perfect new Light, and if we do not do so by them, and establish one general management for the whole, we may soon feel the consequences, for admitting that those who are to have the direction of the Indian Trade are men of Experience in that way, & Influence amongst the Indians, neither of which can I believe be presumed yet the Independant Views & Interests of particular Colonies or bodies of men, must by frequent clashing defeat the intention of Government, and involves the whole in confusion.—I do not know that I have expressed myself with so much freedom except to yourself for as on the one hand I have no inclination for the additional trouble it occasioned, Some men might attribute my remarks to Interested motives, which I could sufficiently demonstrate is not the case, on the contrary, I am sorry to say that I believe there are men in the World that would in my situation regard the late System with a Malicious pleasure as what must in its final consequences Exalt their own Reputation, and enlarge their Authority, but I thank Heaven I have ever thought my self Love a small sacrifice to the publick.

The business of the late Treaty was attended with many difficulties & obstructions. The Indians were thro' the former delays,

very suspicious of our Views, respecting the boundary, & the difficulties to the Northward, where our Settlements are already so far extended and where so many Tribes are settled is not easily to be conceived. The New England Missionaries who I have good reason to think were very seriously bent to have something favorable to the old Views of Connecticut within the province of Pennsylvania, and who were doubtless eager to get an opportunity for extending into the Indian Country endeavored to dissuade them from establishing the Line in any wise favorable for this province, & memorialled me ag^{t} extending it far North, or West, this extraordinary behaviour in opposition to the Orders of the King and the Interests of the Province, deserved to be taken notice of, however I contented myself with pursuing the Task recommended to me & happily effected it as advantageously as could possibly be expected. The Ascertaining this Line so far as it regards this Province by Monuments & Accurate descriptions, is absolutely necessary as well as that Sev^{l}. of the Indian Chiefs should attend upon the occasion, but the Sum of £100 would little more than defray the Expense of provisions for that Service.

I am much obliged to you for the Judicious remarks you make on the affairs of last Session, and I concurr entirely with you in opinion from my Experience of the Views & Interests of the parties. The Schenectady Election is carried again in fav^{r}. of Myndertse the late Member, who as far as I know him seems to be honest & inoffensive. You know we have as yet few or none, of any Talents hereabouts. I know of no new Candidates for the County, If there were, The unusual badness of the roads, & the short notice given by the Sherriff, would render it impracticable to Assemble the freeholders of a county so very extensive,—I wish they may come to a favorable resolution concerning your Losses, & think the persons you attributed them to was the most favorable for the reputation of the Province, which in my humble opinion is bound to make you full Restitution.—I thank God my health has been much mended since my Tour to the sea side, and I am very happy to hear that you enjoy both it & Spirits of both which I very sincerely wish you the continuance, and hoping that I may

long enjoy your friendly & esteemed correspondence I remain with perfect truth & regard Dr Sir, &c.

The Honble Lt Govr. Colden.

THE PURCHASERS OF COSBY MANOR TO SIR WM. JOHNSON.

New York Febuary 8th 1769.

Sir

It having appeared by the Survey of the lands on the North Side of the Mohawk River which Mr. Delancey in the year 1762 purchased of you as Attorney of the Honoubl Mrs Cosby Since deceased, that there are 3000 acres deficient of the Quantity for which they were Sold ; and the amount of the monies for which those lands Stood Mortgaged to Sir Peter Warren, greatly exceeding the Sum imagined to be due thereon ; there must in Consequence; be a considerable Ballance due to Mr Delancey, and those concern'd with him in that purchase, By an account Stated we make this Ballance including Interest from the Time of the Purchase, £1507–1–4–and not having it in our Power to recover it Without transmitting a State of the matter, to England, to be laid before Mrs Cosbys Executors, of whom alone we apprehend it can be recovered ; We beg leave Previously to inclose and Submit the account to your consideration, and if any Error appears therein to desire that you will be pleased to point it out, that we may State the account agreeable to your own Sentiments, which being done, we shall then hope that you will grant us Such a Certificate as the nature of the case requires in order to facilitate the Recovery of the real Ballance you shall think justly due

We are with very great Regard

Sir

Your Most Obedient Humble Servts

Oliver DeLancey

Jas Jauncey

Peter Remsen

To Sir William Johnson Bart Gw Banyar

Messr. Oliver Delancey, James Jauncey, Goldᵇ Banyer & Peter Remsen Their Accoᵗ. Currᵗ. With Miss Grace Cosby.

Dr.

1762			
Augt 1	To 21000 Acres of Land Bought of Miss Grace Cosby by Power of Attorney to Sir William Johnson for.....	6000	
	To 2000 Acres of Land more Bought of Ditto.....	500	
		6500	
	Ballance over paid Miss Grace Cosby by Messr. Oliver Delancey. James Jauncey. Goldb. Banyer & Peter Remsen	1150—8-9½	
			£7650—8-9½

Cr.

1762			
Augt 1	By Cash paid Miss: Cosby	4000	
	By Cash paid to the Indians by Peter Remsen by an Agreement with Sir Willm Johnson.....	102-16-4½	
	By a Defeciency in the 21000 Acres of land being 3000 Acres at 5s 8½ Curry. p Acre	856—5	
	By Cash paid for the Quit Rents due on 18000 Acres of Land from 1st Januy. 1734 till 1st. Augt 1762 Being 28 years & 7 months at 29s 2d.....	750—6-3	
	By Cash paid for the Quit Rents due on 2000 Acres of Land from 1st Augut. 1735 to 1st Augt. 1762 Being 27 years at 29s 2	78-15-0	
Augt 1	By Cash paid for a Mortgage due to Sir Peter Warren ..... Str. £662—3—0		
	Interest on the Above Mortgage for 11 years & 3 months 5 p ct..... 372—9—4		
	Str. 1034-12—4		
	Advance a 80 p cent " 827-13-10		
		1862—6—2	
			£7650—8—9½
1762			
Augt 1	Ballance over paid Miss Grace Cosby By Mess Oliver Delancey. James Jauncy. Gold Banyar & Peter Remsen.....	1150—8—9	
	Interest due from Augut 1st 1762 to Octob. 15th 1768 is 6 years 2 months & 14 Days a 5 p cent.....	356-12—7	
			£1507—1—4

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO LORD HILLSBOROUGH.

Johnson-hall Feby 15th. 1769.

My Lord,

Since my last of Decr 23d. No. 6, I have had the honor to receive your Lordships Letters No. 6, in answer to mine No. 2, containing his Majesties Commands that I should make out some certain estimate of what I thought the Department might require in order to the determining whether any greater Sum should be allowed than that recommended by the board of Trade, and that in the mean time the Annual Expence should not Exceed that Sum,—The first is already done as I long since transmitted a short Estimate for that purpose to Genl Gage who informs me that the same is now before his Majesty, The second is in part and will very soon be entirely complied with by the Total removal of the Commissaries and all other officers of the Department at the out posts & Frontiers—but as on the first receipt of the Plan for the reform It was Judged most adviseable by the General and myself that the Provinces should have some little time to consider in what manner they should carry that part relating to Trade into Execution as the Withdrawing those officers abruptly without any to supply their places would beyond all doubt have proved of very ill Consequence, it was not till the rect of your Lordships Letter of the 12th. Octr. that we could withdraw them, and some must of necessity remain until the Lakes and Rivers are open; I am Extremely happy to find that those Remarks which I humbly offered on the subject of the reform have been honored with his Majestys attention—It would much Exceed the bounds of a Letter to enter minutely into so multifarious a subject, or to point out the various arguments that might be brought in proof of the Weight of any Remarks, Whatever I have presumed to offer in that way was perfectly disinterested & arose from a conviction of their necessity. The arrangemts. pointed out in your Lordships Letter of April last, were in my opinion judiciously calculated to answer their object which to me appeared to be the relieving the Kingdom from a Large Expence by transferring the management of Trade to the sevl. Colonies on a supposition that these Colonies would do every thing necessary therein, but if my Experience in these

matters here, joyned to my opportunitys of knowing the State of Indian affairs at this time gave me reason to apprehend that the wise measures of Government were liable to be frustrated, or would not be carried on so as to answer their Good intentions, or the Publick Security I thought it my duty to offer my thoughts to avoid a charge of remissness in a matter of so much moment.

My Lord, I would willingly avoid any reflection on the people here, especially those amongst them whose Errors may be imputed to ignorance of the consequence & importance of a subject laid before them but when your Lordship considers the Characters disposition and practice of those who grant money for publick service in America it will not appear new or Extraordinary to suppose that they will not see the necessity of being at any expence adequate to the importance of the subject I could have recourse to undoubted authorities to prove their Extreme parsimony & backwardness, on the most alarming occasions, when their all was at stake, but I persuade myself that enough of this is known, to Justify my apprehensions concerning their Conduct, in matters which appear of less consequence, on the subject of which they are in general totally ignorant, and will of course judge the necessary (or perhaps any) Expence as needless, it is my duty to represent this as it will in its Consequences affect the Crown,—I gave Sr H Moore a Sketch of my Regulations for the Trade & the last Instructions to my officers, who laid it before his Assembly, and they have as I am since informed, committed it to the Management of the Albany Representatives, I Likewise conversed on the Subject with the Govrs. of New Jersey & Pennsylvania, and from all that I can hear, there is little prospect that the Assemblys will do what may have been Expected from them on this subject, Thus my Lord it stands at present, Whatever Resolutions they may take I shall do all in my power to second, and promote them but I found that the dutys expected from the Colonies are so complicated with many others, and the Execution of them so uncertain that I fully persuade myself your Lordship will pardon me for the Liberty I have taken in declaring my thoughts as to the Event,—If the duty of Commissaries could be dispensed with until the provinces make some provision for officers

of that kind, The Smiths & Interpreters appear always wanting & the Interests of the Crown require that the Latter in particular should be under the direction of its own officers.

Any Apology for the Liberty I have taken in these matters will be needless as I rely entirely on your Lordships indulgence to the Motives of Duty & Fidelity which have produced them.

As to the Boundary, and purchase from the Indians, as I lost no time in Calling together the sev[l] Nations necessary after the rec[t] of my orders, It was not in my power to Act otherwise than I did as from all the Intelligence I could procure It was deemed the Intention of the Crown to purchase the soil in all the Royal Governments, had it been otherwise I believe it would have appeared, that the Adjustment of the Quotas of the respective Colonies with their Local Views and Interests if they became the purchasers, would have greatly retarded the proceeding, and possibly Rendered the Congress abortive which must have greatly incensed the Ind[s]. who were assembled from a great Distance for that purpose.—The Ind[s]. did for the most part desire that a Line sho[d]. be settled to which the prospect of a Large present was no inconsiderable motive, but as I observed in a former Letter, the Length of time from its being first proposed till the final orders for its Settlement, created so many doubts ams[t] them & gave such opportunitys to Evil Minded persons to misrepresent it that the Ind[s]. were very far from being unanimous upon it and a variety of difficulties arose on which occasion I did the best I could for the Interests of the Crown, and I persuade myself that on due Consideration of these difficulties, and of the Value & great Extent of the cession beyond w[t]. had been ever claimed by us in Right of purchase, it will appear to be a very reasonable consideration and in order that the Crown might be Reimbursed give me Leave to suggest to your Lordship, That an Instruction to the Gov[rs]. of the Royal Colonies directing that all future Grants within such cession be Liable to a fine, Suppose £10 Ster. for each Thousand Acres, over & besides fees & Quit rent, (which Sum, is about the usual Rate of the Ind[n], purchase and will on a Million of Acres produce £10,000. Ster) That in such case, the Crown will be very soon reimbursed without reckoning the annually accruing

from the Grants.—This is humbly offered in case his Majesty should not demand a Reimbursement from each Province of its particular Quota,—and the private Grantees can have no reason to complain as the terms I have suggested, are full as moderate as Indian purchases have been for some years past.

I am Glad that his Majesty is pleased to approve the Continuing the Boundary line so as to include the Province of N York, as I could not receive his commands in suffi'ct time & as I found that the Inds. more immediately affected by it were for continuing it in a manner I looked upon to be very disadvantageous. I thought it best to Stop at the Mouth of Canada Creek till I received the Kings Commands, which may be carried into Execution, on which occasion I shall Consult Sir Henry Moore,

Since the rect of the plan prepared by the Lords of Trade I did conceive from some Letters I had the honor to receive that either that plan, or something similiar thereto would have been adopted, which I communicated to the Inds. as Information which must prove highly satisfactory to them, as they consider the Interposition, & management of their Affairs by the imediate servants of the Crown as best calculated for their happiness & Interests from the Very high Opinion they entertain of his Majesty which I thought it my duty always to promote. It was therefore natural for them to found their expectations on such a plan as seemed best for their Interests, this was all that was meant by the Observation in my former Letter In order to Shew as I thought it my duty to do that the hopes & desires of the Inds. were founded on an Establishmt. under the immediate direction of his Majestys Servants, not as any remark of mine on a reform, which is the best calculated for relieving the Kingdom of a heavy burthen. As the present plan seems Calculated for the purposes, & from the Circumstances mentioned in your Lordships Letter, It is my Duty & Inclination, & it shall be my particular study to recomend it in the most favorable Light to the Inds. & to promote the Execution of it to the utmost of my power.

The reasonableness & necessity of the Small addl. Expence I have proposed will I presume appear evident for the enabling me to execute the sevl. duties which fall under my Superintendency

which I shall discharge to the utmost extent of my power & the fund allowed, as becomes a Good Subject & your Lordships &ca.

The Rt. Honble

The Earl of Hillsborough.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson-hall Feby 25th. 1769.

My Lord,

In my last which was wrote a few days past I had the honor to answer your Lordships Letter (No 6) and now have that of Novr last (No 7) with inclosures which I did not receive till a few days since.

The Representations in my Letter No 3 to which your Lordships last is in answer, and which regarded the Intrigues & Practises of the French and Spaniards with its effects upon the Indians I have always thought a matter of the most Serious consequence and have studied to detect as well as to frustrate to the utmost of my power, and I shall endeavor as far as is in my power to obtain such Evidence of Facts and other Information as may be necessary, but your Lordship is doubtless Sensible that such an enquiry must be involved in many difficulties as the information of Indians may not be admitted as sufficient proof and those who intrigue with them are at such a distance and Act with So much Caution that few, (if any) White men have had occular demonstration of it, notwithstanding the Variety of Corresponding Accounts and other Circumstances leave little reason to doubt the fact.

It may be that these proceedings are not by Authority of the French or Spanish Courts it is likewise probable that they may be in some circumstances exaggerated, but the effect is unluckily the same, as the Indians believe that they are all by Authority of these Crowns, and the large presents they have from time to time received, farther confirm them in the Opinion that they don't come from private Adventurers There are a Number of Renegado french and Canadians, who reside about the Misisipi & the Western Lakes, many of whom dare not make their appearance in any of the Colonies These Men are ready to undertake any thing, and find an Advantage in every Rupture, and as it is agreable both to their

Interest and inclination to disturb the Tranquillity of the British Government, they would be guilty of so doing without any Authority how much more if connived at or perhaps countenanced by France or Spain, which My Lord is far from being improbable if either of these Courts, have a War in View, in that case the incursions of the Indians would prove of infinite use to them, as it would not only prove the ruin of our frontiers and Trade, and give a Check to Privateering from hence, but involve us in a heavy Expence, and draw part of our attention to the back Country, even Should we Suppose that the Canadians would all remain faithfull to their Allegiance, or that the Enemy could not Land Troops in any part of the Continent.—As to any Assurances given by French or Spanish Governors in America, experience & their Conduct previous to the Two last Wars make me very doubtfull of them, as they gave the same Assurances at those periods whilst they acted the likepart, and tho' their disavowal of such Seductive practises prevailed over all the Intelligence given of them, yet, the Event justified the Information, every Ind^{n} War is of some Advantage to those who would rival us in Trade and Stops the Sale of the British Manufactures, but in case of a Rupture With the Crowns I have mentioned, as a Revolt of the Ind^{s} would then be of the greatest importance to them, it is their interest to render the Indians during a peace dissatisfied with our Government, and to continue to seduce them till they have occasion for their services, to counteract them in time is our business but this cannot be Effectually done without some Expence and employing sev^{l} persons of integrity influence and Capacity in the Indian Country, or at the outposts.

I humbly offer my most dutifull regards for the Kings Speech, and the addresses which I had the honor to receive, the firmness of the former, and the Unanimity expressed in the latter afforded me high satisfaction and gave me reason to hope that the unhappy disputes, excited by some Turbulent Zealots in this Country will be speedily terminated in a manner consistent with the honor of the Crown and the true happiness of the people.

It gave me infinite pleasure to hear from your Lordship that her Majesty was happily brought to bed of a Princess. I beg leave

most sincerely to Congratulate your Lordship upon an Event which must add to his Majestys Domestic felicity and that of all his faithful subjects.

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO THE PURCHASERS OF COSBY MANOR.

Johnson Hall Feby 25th. 1769.

GENTLEMEN

I am favored with your Letter of the Sth Instant concerning the Lands you purchased of me as attorney to the late Mrs. Cosby.

As I some time ago wrote Mr Commissioner Jefferies (from whome and Mr Montague I have received a fresh power of Attorney) and desired that he would give me particular Instructions forthwith, concerning the Deficiency Mortgage & other matters I cannot be as explicit as I could wish until the receipt of his Answer which I may shortly expect;—In the mean time give me Leave to observe that on Examg the Accot. of Fees for that patent which with other papers were lately transmitted to me I find that the North Tract which you purchased was made to contain 20,000 Acres, & that on the South Side 22,000, and I am the readier induced to think it may yet be found so, as I know that your Surveyor at the time he run the Lines was but a beginner in that business, and has since been faulted by the Surveyor General for some errors of that nature, from this and the former circumstances I should think that a resurvey would be necessary, Indeed I formerly understood that both Tracts were equal in quantity, however I hope all these matters will be Settled in a Satisfactory manner and that I shall be enabled to write you soon thereon in consequence of my Letter to the Gentlemen who are the late Mrs Cosbys Executors.

Messrs DeLancey, Jauncey, Banyar & Remsen.

HON. OL. DELANCEY TO SIR WM. JOHNSON.

New York ye 26 Feby 1769

DEAR SIR

By the Decm. Packett that arrived Last Thursday I received a Letter from Lady Warren Dated ye 4th December of which the

following is an Extract that Relates to you (viz) I am supeand by Abraham Sterling who maryed a Sister of Sr Wm Johnsons to make Him pay the Legacy His uncle left them but as there does not appear to be any thing due by His Account I dont know how this affair is to End These People give me a great Deal of trouble he certainly was in His Uncles debt he ought to Rectify this affair that I may not be Perplexed with these People They come me as Executrix & say I ought to see they have Justice done them they have put me in the Court of Chancery I acquainted them long ago that Sr William had made out an account that he did not owe any thing but they say very Justly that Sr Peter Warren would not have Left them what was due from Sr William unless he had been in His Debt and indeed I am of their opinion in that Respect I must advise with a Lawyer about it as I am supœnad to appear upon penalty)

by the above Extract youl see that Lady Warren is made very uneasy by your Relations on Act of the Supposed Demand on you I hope youl write fully on this matter that I may send a copy of your Letter to Her that she may be able to satisfy the Claimants and free Her self from the uneasiness she Labours under from Mr Sterlings solicitations I have nothing to add but that I always am Dr Sr.

Your most Obed Humble Sert

Oliver DeLancey.

To the Honbl Sr William Johnson Bart
at Johnson Hall Albany

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO OL. DELANCEY.

Johnson-hall March 20th 1769.

Dear Sir,

I have have had the favor of your Letter of the 26th ulto concerning Abraham Sterlings having Subpœnaed Lady Warren on my account. As to her being at any trouble with regard to any other of my Relations, there certainly is no such thing as they are all too sensible of my own great disappointment from the disposition my Uncle Last made of his fortune,— Gentlemen still

living can evidence from his own repeated declarations what he had taught me & indeed what I had reason to expect, as well as Sundry Testimonials under his hand in my posession.—but all this is foreign to the subject Sir Peter Warren most certainly & most assuredly died Considerably in my debt & nothing but a regard to delicacy & connection has hitherto prevented me from Demanding it. I believe every body must allow that the Inspection of his Accot against me alone can not determine such a matter, mine against him has already been before Gentlemen of reputation & Character, his own friends, & one of them is still Living. I am ready to prove it on Oath, as well as to Shew that many considerable Articles have not been charged by me which would have made the ballance still more in my favor.

According to the Extract you favored me with Lady Warren speaking as I take it of my Relations, used the Word (They) as if it was a general complaint of them all, or at least of more than one, I wish I knew what I am to understand by it because (They) write me directly the Contrary as for Sterling I have not so much as heard of him till very lately, and look upon it that his desperate fortune may drive him to any thing.—Should any other of my Connections attempt to follow his Example a Circumstance I do not believe (having evidence to the contrary in my hands,) I should be glad they were pointed out to me.

I beg you may assure Lady Warren that I esteem her too much to wish to occasion her any perplexity, & hope I may not be reduced to that necessity, and I have that respect for my Uncles reputation & memory to suppose that coolly he would never have disappointed his Relations by so Extraordinary a Legacy, but the Circumstances & manner of his death will sufficiently Justify me in supposing that he did not then advert to the nature of his Accot with me & only thought of his own against me without regard to mine against him otherwise I cannot account for his acting so Contrary to his repeated declaration in my favor, and the constant assurances I had ever since he persuaded me over to this country of sharing a part of his very large fortune, which I might have done without any sensible prejudice to the rest of his family, My Esteem for his memory induce me to accot in this manner for his Last

Will, as I really think I have been the greatest Loser by it, If a man may be said to Lose that which he was not actually possessed of.— I imagine that a thorough knowledge of the affair will free Lady Warren from future Trouble with Sterling, & me from the necessity of taking measures which regard for Sir Peters memory & connections would induce me to avoid unless compelled of necessity to do myself Justice.— Be assured that I am always

Dear Sir, &ca.

The Honble Oliver DeLancey Esqr.

SIR Wm. JOHNSON TO Lt GOV. COLDEN.

Johnson-hall April 4th 1769.

Dear Sir

I thank you very kindly for your Favor of 26th Febry, and for Your thoughts on the Subjects of my former Letter.—As to the Affairs of my Department, (as you Justly observe) time will shew how far the Change with regard to that part concerning the Indian Trade will answer the Intention, It can be no Loss to me as the attention to that added to my trouble, without the least private advantage. I wish the publick may find it as Little Loss to them.

Tho' Patriotism is the pretext on most such occasions I look upon it as you do that the late Contest was really of another nature, but in this Patriotic Age, no point can be carried under any other Colours, it is a Charm with which the populace have been often led to Measures highly dangerous & Injurious to their true Interests & it will always be the Case in free Governments—I know the principles upon which the party you Mention have acted, & I believe always will act,—I fancy they have got a Check already and probably will meet with more & I believe however favorably the Gentleman you Speak of may have represented them, they will not long find their Account in it.—The Resolves of the Lords are Warm, but we must wait a little longer I apprehend before we can Judge of the Event.

I thank you for your Opinion concerning the Erecting my Estate into a Manor, & presume it may not Succeed for the reasons you Mention, I shod have thought so from the beginning but that I saw within this Province Mannors erected so long after the Abrogation

of the feudal Tenures, and Imagined that mine might be so to with such priviledges as they have, for the rest I shall think of it and doubt not of the friendship or Assistance of your Son & Mr Banyar on the occasion.—

Whenever it is agreable to you I shall be very Glad to hear from you & shall always Cultivate your friend by Correspondence by writing you any thing that may be of the least use or amusement to you, & Sincerely wish you the Continuance of your health Being with great Truth Dr Sir

Your faithfull friend
& very humble Servt

The Honble Lt Govr Colden.

LORD HILLSBOROUGH TO SIR WM. JOHNSON.

Duplicate. Whitehall, May 13. 1769.

Sir,

Since my letters to you of the 4th of January and 24th of March last No 8 and 9, the Lords of Trade have made their Report to His Majesty upon the proceedings of the Superintendants for Indian Affairs, in settling a final Boundary Line between His Majesty's Colonies and the Indian Country.

This Report has been referred by the King's command to the consideration of such of His Servants, upon whose advice His Majesty relies in matters of the greatest importance ; and I am thereupon to signify to you, that if you have not been able, in consequence of my letter of the 4th of January last No 8, to induce the Six Nations and their Allies to except out of the cession to His Majesty the lands lying South of the Ohio below the Kanawa, upon the ground and argument suggested in that letter, or if you shall be of opinion that insisting upon such an alteration will have the effect to excite Jealousy and Discontent ; in that case His Majesty, rather than risk the defeating the important object of establishing a final Boundary Line, will upon your Report of this matter, give the necessary directions for the confirmation of it as agreed upon at Fort Stanwix : It is not however His Majesty's

intention, that the settlements of His Subjects should be carried beyond the Boundary of Virginia, as proposed to be fixed near the Kanawa River.

As to the Grant of Land made to the Indian Traders and to Mr Croghan, it is His Majesty's pleasure that you should acquaint the Indians, that His Majesty does not think fit at present to confirm those Grants, reserving that matter for further consideration, when those persons shall make application to His Majesty thereupon and when the nature, extent, and situation of the Grants themselves, and the foundation on which they have been solicited shall be further explained.

With regard to what appears, in the proceeding at the Congress, of the wishes of the Indians to have their commercial as well as their political concerns managed in the manner suggested in the Plan of 1764, I have already so fully explained to you the Reason and Necessity for departing from that Plan, that I have only in command from the King to desire that you will not fail in your endeavour to represent this matter in such a light to the Indians, as to convince them that His Majesty adopted the Plan at present recommended for regulating the Trade by Laws of the Colonies, not merely upon what was suggested by those Colonies, but upon full consideration of what was represented to be most desireable for the Interests of the Indians themselves, in respect to their commerce with His Majesty's Subjects, the improvement and extension of which for the benefit of the Indians will ever be an object of the King's Attention and Regard.

I have only to add that I have received and laid before the King your Letters No 7 and 8, but have not any commands from His Majesty to signify to you thereupon. I am,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient

Humble Servant

HILLSBOROUGH.

Sir William Johnson Bart

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO LORD HILLSBOROUGH.

Johnson Hall June 24th 1769.

My Lord

Since my last of the 25th Feby I have had the honor to receive your Lordships Letter of the 4th Jany. in consequence of which I shall endeavor to execute his Majestys Commands respecting the Surrender of the additional Cession in the best manner possible So as to Shew the Indians, that the Same is Solely declined from the regard his Majesty has for them, and his tenderness for their posterity. I make no doubt of its being readily accepted by them, and am only concerned Least the Virginians especially the frontier Inhabitants should take possession of and begin Settlements on those Lands, If this is done after the Indians are informed that his Majesty declines them, it will create very Strange Suspicions amongst them & doubtless produce ill consequences, I ought to observe this to your Lordship because I have been well assured by Gentlemen from that Country that the frontier people who have a great desire for these Valuable Lands would at all events make Settlements there, and as it is most certain & that there are Sevl. recent instances of the weakness of Civil Authority & the little regard paid to it by these people together with the disinclination of many persons of consequence to promote Such Settlements & in that I Saw a Deed in the hands of the Virginia Commissioners for great part of these Lands which they assured me had formerly met with Encouragemt. from his Late Majesty & the then Ministry of which numbers were determined to avail themselves forthwith, it did not a little Contribute to induce me to accept of the Cession of that Country to prevent the general ill consequences which must attend the establishment of Such Settlements without the Indians consent, as judging it best to take that opportunity for enabling his Majesty to accept or reject it as he might think necessary;—

At this distance as it is often impracticable to wait for particular Instructions in many occurring cases So it is as impossible to forsee every event, & of course Instructions cannot be expected in every circumstance, his Majestys Indulgence has therefore often left it in the power of his Servants to do many things for the good of the Service till his Royal pleasure is more fully Signified in the

premises, I observed in a former letter that the Minutes of private Conferences with the chiefs where the principal matters are first resolved on, were by much too Voluminous to be ever transmitted, it would there appear, that the Indians insisted in Such Warm Terms on the justice of their Claim to the Cherokee River that I was necessitated either to disoblige them in a high degree or to observe to them that the Southeren Indians made Some pretensions to the Lands in Question, besides this & the designs of the frontier people with the Virginia Claim before mentioned I did humbly conceive it to be the desire of Government to get as extensive a Cession as was practicable, & altho In the Letters I had the honor to receive, mention was made of the Kanhawa River to prevent a dispute with the Cherokees &c, Yet as I had always understood & had myself actually heard the Cherokees above 20 years ago acknowledge, that the River of their name was the Extent of their pretensions, as I found it was so understood by the Colony of Virginia, & as the Northern Indians would not be Satisfied till this their claim was mentioned, I acted to the best of my Judgment under all the circumstances in accepting of the Cession to be Submitted to his Majesty, for admitting the Cherokees do claim to the Northward a circumstance which is quite new & wch I have reason to believe they would not avow before the Northern Ind^{s} Yet as the latter are more powerfull more Jealous more Warlike & capable of doing us infinitely more mischief than the former, I then thought the complying with the claims of the Northern Confederacy a measure of the least dangerous tendency, and I flatter myself that his Majesty will for all these reasons honor me with his Indulgence in believing that I acted as in my Judgment appeared best for the Service.

I have already observed that I shall forthwith execute the orders transmitted in your Lordships last Letter, in the best manner I can as I shall every other part of my Duty particularly endeavouring to discover the designs of all Secret Enemies who by their Machinations threaten us with danger, among other Instances of w^{ch} I find from the examination of a man who is lately returned from the Misisipi & well acquainted with several of their proceedings that Indians arrived last January at the place where he

wintered, who brought belts from the French Settlements, which were imediately forwarded thro the nations to the Lakes, the purport of which tho' kept very private was to promote a union for the Execution of some plan, & that those Messengers made particular inquiry concerning the strength & number of men at the Outposts There has likewise been an alarm at Detroit which put a stop to the Traders going to the Westward for some time & occasioned the Inhabitants to fortify themselves, this seems to have arisen from the claim the Indians have to the possessions of sundry French Inhabitants at that place but tho' their apprehensions are at present somewhat abated, there is good reason to think they are far from being over, from the concurring accots from all Quarters amongst which I have just received Information from Detroit communicated by Huron Andrew an Indian of good sense, much respected for his attachment & Services to us, That Monsr Vercher formerly a french officer who was Trading last Winter at Sandusky on Lake Erie without Leave had distributed two Belts with 2 Kegs of Rum amongst the Hurons desiring them to retain their Courage for that they would soon see their Old French father when they wd. have occasion for it,—These things are so common, that the best disposed Inds. become poisoned with their principles & all this arises from the want of the proper Regulations for Trade, & the pernicious practice of permitting the worst sort of men, to go where they please into the Indian Country—The state of things here induces me to think that my going into the 6 Nation Country may be of some service, I shall therefore set out imediately and at my return which I expect will be within a few Weeks shall communicate any material Intelligence which I may have recd.

I am with the utmost respect, My Lord &c.

The Rt. Honble the Earl of Hillsborough.

Endorsed

June 24th 1769

To the Earl of Hillsborough.

Your Lordships last letter acquainting me that my proceed*. were still before the Lords of Trade, is just come to hand.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson Hall Augt 20th 1769

My Lord,

On my way from the Country of the Senecas, whither in my Letter of the 24th June (N° 9) I informed your Lordship I was then destined, I had the honour to receive your Lordship's of the 13th May (N° 10) and I herewith inclose a seperate Letter on the Issue of my Journey and proceedings, humbly requesting that your Lordship will so far indulge me as to allow the Subject of this to be a farther Explanation of the Transactions at the Fort Stanwix Treaty which from what I have heard seems necessary for the Justification of my Conduct. I even persuade myself that under these Circumstances Your Lordship will rather approve than condemn me for endeavoring (as every Man of Honour and Integrity ought) to remove any the least misinformation on that head and to set the whole in as clear a light as the bounds of a Letter will admit of; and I have some hopes that in so doing your Lordship will be still farther enabled to judge of the propriety of future measures respecting the Objects of that Treaty ; and tho' I may be obliged in some places to Extract the substance of former Letters, yet I hope the placing the whole in one View will attone for it.

In order to this, permit me to remind your Lordship, That in former Letters I shewed that between the first mention of a Boun dary Line (which was soon heard of throughout the Colonies) and my receiving orders for concluding it, so much time had elapsed as gave our Enemys opportunity to misrepresent our Intentions to the Indians, so that after procuring and Transporting a large valuable present to the place appointed for the Congress I found the Indians' sentiments so much altered as to render the success of my negociations very doubtfull, Under the disadvantageous Circumstances I was obliged to act as the Exigency of affairs required, and the apprehension of being obliged in some measure to deviate from my Instructions gave me great uneasiness. My health, already reduced to a very low state from severe fatigue in his Majesty's service, was on this occasion rendered much worse by being obliged to sit whole nights generally in the open woods in private Conferences with the leading men. As here the princi-

pal matters are first agitated, and the sentiments of the rest best known, I found that their jealousy was not to be removed but by permitting them to make mention of their claim extending to the Cherokee River. At this time I had suggested nothing to them on that subject, but as from the Circumstances of time, & place, the greatest part of the Transactions at these private Conferences can never be committed to writing & if they were their enormous bulk would render them unfit to be transmitted. These Conversations and previous Transactions did not make their appearance in the Copy I transmitted, which according to the Custom hitherto observed contained only the public Treaty, & therefore it might have been imagined that this was of my first suggesting whereas I was obliged to admit the mention of their Claim thro' necessity in consequence of what had passed, & as that was the case I co^{d} not I am certain have given them a more favorable Idea of his Majesty's goodness than his declining so fine a Tract to remove the possibility of Dispute, rather than from a Doubt of their Title & I have since repeatedly found that this was highly pleasing to them, but as they came with fixed resolutions on that head, which I have already observed, & as I co^{d} not put off, or wait the farther Sense of Gov^{t} thereon, without Consequences for which I could never make attonement I was compelled to act as I did & I thought my Conduct farther justified on the following principles. First, That in transactions with such a people at such a distance from Court, some Latitude was often given to his Majesty's servants, & that the same was never more necessary than on that occasion. Second, That my orders on that head seemed to be founded on a belief that the Cherokees Claimed a right to that Country, If this could be made to appear otherwise, of which I was certain, it removed that objection.—Third, That the Inhabitants of Virginia laid Claims thereto in virtue of old purchases some of which had been formerly countenanced by the Crown, & that the back Inhabitants of that colony, who are a very encreasing & enterprising people, had a strong desire to establish themselves in that country, had already made many advances thereto, & in case the Indians had not ceded it would soon begin Settlements thereon, which would certainly be productive of a War.—At the same time I was but

too sensible of the inefficacy of any measures of the Colony to prevent such Settlements, and of the Interest that many persons of consequence had in wishing them to be extended. Fourth, That the removing the claim of the Northern Confederacy by a Cession to his Majesty at a time when they were so much disposed for it, would be gaining a great point, the only means of carrying on the Treaty, and the least productive of any ill consequences. When I considered all these points, & that whatever might have of late been said of the pretensions of the Cherokees, the North^{n} Confederacy were more powerful & more inclined to dispute, and their dispute of more dangerous consequence, I could no longer hesitate as to the part I had to act, and I fully persuade myself that on due consideration of the premises, the motives from which I acted will appear strongly in Justification of my measures.

For the rest I have only to say, that besides some private sales ratified by the Governor, and made according to the usual mode, with which I had nothing to do, there were two Grants or Indian Deeds against which I was not aware any objection would be made. The one to M^{r} Croghan was only a Confirmation of Two former Grants which the Indians particularly desired to make, and believe they did with^{t} any influence; I am certain it was with^{t} mine; and which as he told me he took for the satisfaction of the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania, in order to the obtaining a Grant in the usual way, he farther assured me that he had laid his old pretensions before your Lordship. The other Grant was to the Traders who suffered losses in the Indian War of 1763. It was made an Article of the peace with them afterwards, and was judged a very prudent measure by obtaining from them a Retribution in the only way in their power, and thereby furnishing a precedent that might be of use hereafter sho^{d} they Commit Depredations. It was well known to Government and approved of, and was mentioned to me in the Lords of Trades Plan, and Chearfully agreed to by the Indians who were disposed to give the sufferers a Greater Extent of Land than is in the Grant, had I not interposed, thro' an apprehension that there were not wanting Malicious persons who thro' Envy or Illnature might take occasion to lessen the importance of the Transactions at the Treaty by remarks on the Extent of a private Grant, tho' such Grant could not prove any loss to the Crown, as

it must be subject to the same Quit-rent of any other, and tho' it was an act of Justice and policy and did not reach within 100 miles of the Great Kanhawa. Some of the Indians thro' principle, & all of them from an Inclination to shew their regard to Treatys, made particular mention of these Grants in their Speeches recommending them to his Majesty, as they did every thing that seemed necessary to their Interest, & this I can safely assure y^r^ Lordship they did of their own meer motion. They observed to me that from what they knew of the present price of Lands here they were sensible they could not receive the 10^th^ part of the Value of the Cession, that therefore they had the strongest reliance on his Majestys attention to their humble requests. I have upon all occasions given as nearly as possible the Literal sense of the Indians as delivered in their speeches, but in this case I softened them, without deviating from their meaning, because I found them rather more animated than they often are, or than I desired; and altho' this could not surprise any man acquainted with the particular mode of Expression of that Confederacy in matters of much moment, I was aware that it might be liable to misconstruction unless due allowance be made for them as Savages who have the most extravagant notions of Freedom, property, and independence, and who cannot as yet be persuaded to give up their hopes and expectations from the Crown; and any person who well understands and impartially represents them must admit that in all Such Treatys, they endeavour to maintain their own importance by the most forcible expressions, to which I may with truth add that as their words for fear of offence have been often Glossed over before they were committed to Writing by many others, I was the first that in the most critical periods took upon me to check them in their Sallys of that nature, whilst at the same time I took care so to conduct myself as to point out their error without driving them to Extremitys. I know there are too many people within these few years past that either think it necessary to their Importance, to the Interests of their party, or to the Gratification of private resentment, to affect a knowledge of Indian Affairs, however ridiculous or partial their reports might be rendered by any competent judge, as their representations cannot be fully known, they are not easily refuted at 3000 miles distance. There is scarcely one other

subject where a man of sense and observation who has been on the spot cannot afford many remarks that may be of use. But these qualifications, without many others, can only mislead in Indian affairs, to speak candidly. It is not during the period of a Governor's residence at an American Capital, of a Commandant at an Outpost, or of a Traveller in the Country, that this can be gained. It is only to be acquired by a long residence amongst them, a daily intercourse with them, and a desire of information in these matters Superseding all other considerations. That this is not the Case of any of those orders of men can be easily shewn, & consequently they are not sufficient judges. But as this would lead me further than (I still flatter myself) there is occasion, I shall only assure your Lordship that all I have presumed to offer is capable of much enlargement, and can be sufficiently amplified and proved whenever occasion requires; and that I should not have presumed to add so much to all I have formerly said hereon, but from a Delicacy, arising from a thorough conviction of the Strictest Probity and Zeal for my King's Service & a perfect disinterestedness, that as it has often procured for me the Royal favor & approbation, renders it my continual wish to be favorably understood, and my peculiar study to merit, the only Object of my painfull endeavours. This, my Lord, is not a bare assertion. It is easy for me to Demonstrate that private Interest governs none of my representations—that they flow from Duty to the Crown, & regard for the public Security, the way to wh^{ch} I am the better Enabled to Judge of, from the nature of my office & my long acquaintance with the state of the frontiers & the neighbouring Indians. The honest motives which induced to detain your Lordship so long on this subject will I persuade myself find a favourable Construction from your Lordships candour; on this I must rest my Justification, whilst they plead my apology. I shall therefore only add that I sho^{d} not have a Moment hesitated executing my last Orders for signifying to the Ind^{s} his Majesty's Inclination to decline that part of the Cession but that I was fearfull of the Consequences when as I know that the Virginians would at any rate settle on these Lands, in Consequence of which the Ind^{s} would all think the whole a Delusion, & that since the late reform I did not think myself authorized to incurr

so great an Expense as is necessary for Convening all those Indians who should attend on such an occasion, without particular Orders, and I have the Satisfaction to find that herein I acted for the best, as from your Lordship's last Letter I observe that in case I am of opinion that it may be of ill consequence, His Majesty will ratify the boundary agreeable to the Treaty, to which I have only to add that since my last Tour into the Indian Country I find my former opinion so much strengthened, that I think it highly prudent to decline the mention of the affair unless I receive y^{r} Lordship's orders to the contrary, or that something should occur that may justify me in so doing.

The R^{t} hon^{r}ble The Earl of Hillsborough

Endorsed

"(N^{o} 10.) August 21st 1769.
To the Earl of Hillsborough."

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson Hall Augt 26th 1769.

My Lord

Having had the honor to write your Lordship on the Subject of the Boundary & Cession which Letter accompanys this I am now to give your Lordship an Account of the Transactions during my late tour through the Countrey of the Six Nations.

I left home on the 26th June and after many delays arrived at Onondaga the 10th July where I found the Chiefs &^{c} of that nation with Sev^{l} others from the Neighbouring Villages who being in great want of Indian Corn from a failure of their Crops I gave them a Supply of that & Sev^{l} other Articles, & previous to my Gen^{l} Meeting held Sev^{l} private conferences with the Chiefs at their Hunting Cabbins returning from one of which in the night, My Canoe overset, & in ascending the bank I rec^{d} a very Severe Cut by a fall on my wounded leg which had very nigh rendered me incapable of proceeding, however on finding myself a little easier I held a Congress with them 2 days after which they opened with a Speech wherein they made many enquiries after news, & whether a War was not to be commenced between England France & Spain, They said they were well assured of

this, & that there were many things which gave them much concern, amongst the rest That some of y^e^. nation continued Obstinately bent on War, and that they feared it would Compell them to disturb the Cherokees & others with whom they had made peace. That the Intrusions of the New Englanders into Pennsylvania they were afraid would draw Some of their people into a War, and that it gave them concern to find that those persons who had the Management of the Trade were removed:—I gave them all the satisfaction in my power on these heads & afterwards proceeded for Cayuga where there were about 500 Indians Assembled, with whom I had a meeting to much the Same effect as with the Onondagas only I observed that the further I advanced into the Indian Country, the more earnest the Indians appeared in their Sev^l^ discourses. I next went to Seneca, where I had Summoned the chiefs of that nation as also those Indians living near the head of Ohio to meet me, who Soon Assembled to the number of 2000 & upwards, before I met them in publick I was visited by two Chiefs in whom I have always had reason to place much confidence who told me that they had laboured hard for Some months to keep their people in order and to prevent their receiving Sev^l^. belts which had been Sent to their Country for very bad purposes, but that nevertheless many came to their hands which had occasioned a Spirit of Discontent ams^t^ them as I would find on opening the Congress, about the Same time Messengers arrived notifying the approach of a number of Cherokee Chiefs who were coming to attend a Gen^l^ Congress to be held at Onondaga at the beginning of next month to which the chiefs of all the Canada confederacy & other Northern Indians were Summoned to renew & Strengthen Alliances. When we Assembled the Senecas began with a long detail of what they called Grievances, They Said that they found the Conduct of all people altered for the worse towards them, That not a Season had passed Since the late peace without the murder of Some of their people by the Inhabitants, That by withdrawing those who had the inspection of the Trade &^c^ Frauds & abuses would be more common than ever; That no business could be Transacted without Interpreters at the posts & that they could not do without Smiths, to mend their arms and other implements used in Hunting That they were well

assured that a War was near at hand, & that they were courted to engage in it, which tho' contrary to the Sense of their Chiefs might probably be agreed to by to many of the Warriors, If those affairs which gave them So much uneasiness were not adjusted for they saw there was no provision made for their redress, I then explained to them what I had in Gen[l] made known before to the Confederacy, Touching the present System for Indian affairs. That they would find the Colonies heartily disposed to make what Establishments were necessary and to prevent frauds or Injustice of every kind, but that they ought to make allowance for the importance of these matters as they required Some time to be put on a proper footing & that those whose Interests & Trade were So materially Connected with them would certainly pursue the wisest measures for promoting peace & Commerce. They answered that I had told them So before, That they well knew how Slow our people here were, & that altho' Some of the Old people of every nation were still disposed to believe all this, They found the Majority of the rest particularly of the other Confederacies were not. They gave me a long State of the Politicks of the other Nations, on which they observed that the fact was the Indians expected to meet the same treatment from us which they had done from the French, That the latter repeatedly told them they would not, That they found it too true, & that they were full of Resentment thro' Disappointment.

It may not be amiss here to remark that when Ind[s]. are Disposed to Quarrel they collect all the materials they can as Grounds for their conduct & often insist on things as Grievances, which in reality have given them little Concern The true Cause is often misrepresented, & therefore the proper remedy is Wanting. They are Jealous of us & envious of one another, & I dont doubt but that the late Great present may prove a means of dividing the Councils of the Six Nat[s]. with the rest, for tho' the sole right was in that confederacy (& double the sum wo[d]. not have contented all who desired to partake of it) The rest will probably be Jealous of it of which I am in hopes a proper use may be made.

During my stay at Seneca, I saw and spoke with sev[l] Indians from different Nations who brought belts of union & messages, & after having settled matters for obtaining a knowledge of what

is to pass at the Congress before mentioned, I took leave of the Indians & arrived here about 10 days ago, much indisposed nor am I yet recovered from the Hurt I received at Onondaga, so that I hope your Lordship will excuse any defects in this Short Sketch which is extracted hastily from my Journal.—On my way home I was overtaken with the news of a Murder of a Young Seneca Lad who was fired upon on the River Susquehanna by some of the frontier Inhabitants without the least provocation given (of which I have since rec^{d}. an acc^{t}. from Pensylv^{a}.) as the father of this Lad has generally lived within the Settlements, & with the whole family demonstrated the most zealous attachment to the English, & were much respected by the Indians, the murther is a very unlucky accident at this time, but it is not alone, sev^{l}. others having been lately committed by the Infatuated & Lawless Inhabitants on the frontiers of Virginia &^{c}. who as they have hitherto acted with Impunity are encouraged to go on.—And tho' the effects of all this have not been Sensibly felt for some time, they at length begin to make their appearance particularly about the Illinois, Ohio &^{c} of which your Lordship will doubtless receive information from the Commander in Chief, the Indians having killed sev^{l}. people attacked & plundered sev^{l}. Traders boats & in short blocked up the Communication of the Ohio so that it is no longer practicable for the Traders, whilst at the same time They are endeavouring to form a more strict alliance than ever for purposes that are but too obvious, seeming only to wait the success of their negotiations for the Commencement of Hostilities, and altho' upon these occasions they use much caution and secrecy, yet some part of their late conduct does not exactly agree with it, but shews an Extraordinary degree of Confidence from some Quarter, of which the answer herewith inclosed to the Speech of L^{t}. Col Wilkins Commands^{g}. at Illinois furnishes some instances, to Illustrate which I have annexed some notes. I have rec^{d}. a Copy of the Speech of Mon^{s}. VerChere formerly a French officer to the Indians of Lake Erie as now delivered by them; this Speech was made known to me by some Spies I have who with many others since positively affirm that he gave them a present in the name of the French King and desired them to hold themseves in readiness, but on my communicating it to the General who wrote

concerning it to Canada, the Indians who esteem Verchere came to the Com^dt. at Detroit delivered up Vercheres belt, and also the Speech in the manner sent me, and was evidently altered to prevent his meeting with punishment, nevertheless tho' they have certainly suppressed much of what he said to them enough remains which to a man conversant in their Idiom would be a convincing proof without any thing farther.—In short as I suspected & frequently represented would be the case, none but Frenchmen can go into their Country to the Westward, & the Indians positively and publickly declare, to all people that they will suffer no others into their Country. I was informed that the French were at the bottom of the representations artfully prepared to get the Gen^l. Liberty for Trading at Large in the Ind^n. Country which I then observed was calculated for them to Engross it all.

In the mean time the Colonies have as yet done nothing Except £150 Voted by N York for the defraying the expenses of officers of Trade a sum scarcely worth mentioning & the Gov^r now writes me that he ment^d his apprehensions of the Ind^ns uneasiness for want of Commissaries to the members of Assembly but without effect & adds that the Inadequate provis^n made for Interpreters & Smiths shews how little the matter in agitation was understood—In short none of those conversant in these matters expect they will do anything material I ought the rather to mention this because in your Lordships Letter of Octob^r 12^th 1768. (N° 6) you observe that the reliance on the benefits Intended to be the result of the late measures was not upon their propriety but "upon the execution of them & upon the regulations which the Colonies shall think fit to adopt for the management of the Commercial part." I kept people on the frontiers as long as I possibly could consistent with his Majesties Instructions & gave timely notice to the Colonies concerned that they must be withdrawn, as did the Commander in Chief, but without effect, and I persuade myself that your Lordships long knowledge of American affairs will render it necessary for me to point out the little expectation of these measures having the effect desired be the consequences what they will. Tis my sense of these consequences alone that induces me to offer a word in addition to what I formerly said hereon, for I aver upon my honor I never had the smallest advantage in the

appointments that formerly existed, but add[l] trouble in Corresponding with the officers, constantly sending them instructions & paying their acct[s] & settled sallarys when I rec[d] them from the Com[r] in chief, and very often obliged to advance them money befor I rec[d] it myself. Your Lordship will then judge how little I ought to have Coveted this from any other motive than the better execution of the public Service.

This moment I have advice that the people have abandoned their settlements from Bedford to Fort Pitt, in consequence of some Robberies committed by some partys of Indians, and also fearing their resentment for their own late conduct towards them, That a party of Ind[s] coming from war had robbed a House where there was only one Woman, whom they threw into the Potowmack, on which a party of the Inhabitants pursued & killed three of the Indians, That they had then resolved to augment their number & proceed to cut off a Mingo Village not far from thence, If so, a War is inivitable. In short there is but too much Licentiousness on all sides for by the same acc[t]. I am assured that Callender a Trader on his way to Fort Pitt with 25 Horses Loaded with Indian Goods was attacked near Bedford by 30 White men disguised & painted like Indians who destroyed & Carried away the Greatest part of his Goods declaring they would suffer none to pass on to the Ind[s]. That this circumstance has greatly exasperated the Ind[s] & contributed to alarm the peaceable part of the White Inhabitants. When we consider the state & disposition of the Indians a people without Laws, or Government very revengeful and influenced much by French Councills & very Jealous of us, We may conclude that as these people cannot in Gen[l] be kept in order without an Expence that may be deemed greater than its Object, All we can do is to divide their Councils & retain a part of them in our Interest, which I am pretty confident I have Interest and Influence to do at all events; It is highly necessary to prevent a too Gen[l] union amongst them, and I should rather have declined taking the pains I did to effect a peace between the Six Nations & Cherokes, because we enjoy the most security when they are divided amongst themselves At the breaking out of the late Indian War I proposed to raise Indians to be employed against the enemy, It was thought giving them too much Consequence, however I took upon myself

to send out a few parties which notwithstanding the pains generally taken to allow them as little merit as possible Contributed Essentially to bring that war to a Conclusion. For altho' it may be said & is in part true that Ind^{s} are unwilling to fight against one another in our Quarrells, there are many exceptions to this Opinion. There are some to be had who will join with ardour against any Enemy, & many more whom it is policy to retain in our service, who tho' at first unwilling to act offensively from maxims of policy, Yet if by any means blood is drawn will become principals in the war, & this the Indians are so sensible of that there is nothing of which they are more apprehensive.

I hope that whatever is the Issue of the present Alarms I shall be able to retain a large body in his Majesties Interest, & even to get them to act against the Enemy if it is required of me, and so soon as I receive any farther information that may be material, I shall communicate it immediately

I have the honor to be &^{c}

The R^{t}. honble
The Earl of Hillsborough.

SIR W^{M}. JOHNSON TO L^{T}. GOV. COLDEN.

Johnson hall, Oct. 4th 1769.

Dear Sir,

I sincerely congratulate you on your once more entering upon the Administration of Government, and I most Cordially wish you health, Success, and Satisfaction in the discharge, of it tho' as you Justly observe there will be doubtless some who will endeavor to throw difficulties in your Way, but I expect you will Surmount them. The pleasure of seeing you, would I do assure you be no small inducement to my undertaking a Journey to New York At present however it is not in my power, as you have probably heard that on my late Tour thro' the Six Nation Country as I returned from holding a private Meeting in th Night, my Canoe was overset & in ascending a Bank I got a fall by which my Leg was very dangerously Cut with a Stake which has hitherto Confined me to the House, as it did for some time to my Chamber. The advice you give me tho' I take it Extremely kind, is founded

on the Expectation of an Event, which would give me real concern, and therefore I must be very far from desiring it,

Sir H Moore sometime ago promised that he would take some Measures for effectually Securing to the Mohocks and Conajoharees the Lands on and about their Villages, this the Inds. spoke of at the late Treaty at Fort Stanwix and I am persuaded that you will do whatever is best for that end, with a View to wch I shall send you the Surveys wch Sr Harry directed me to get made in order to know their exact Contents. There are 2 or 3 other Subjects which I shall take the Liberty of touching upon. You know the Assembly framed a Bill for dividing the County of Albany, by forming a County on this River, the bounds they proposed seem evidently the Work of a party for private purposes they Extended Albany Co. to Aries Kill by which means they not only Cut & divide a Number of Patents, but by carrying it so far up the Mohock River must render it a hardship on the people of the New County to Erect the buildings necessary, and greatly hurt the New Settlements,—All the principal people of this Country have subscribed a petition to the Assembly which is in the hands of Capt De Lancey to be laid before the House Setting forth the Case, & praying that the Boundary may be Extended either with, or without Scohare, that in Running from Hardenberghs Patent on either Side of Scohare thence along the Patroons Line to the West bounds of the Township of Schenectady thence North along the West Line of that Township. This I can Assure you is the best, most Natural, and Convenient boundary that can be formed, and I therefore take the Liberty of recommending it to your patronage.

The next thing is with regard to the Militia, Govr. Moore formed Sevl regiments, as the Old ones were overgrown he divided the province into Two Districts, giving me the Command from the frontiers to the Highlands as Brigadier General (which in fact was no preferment it was going backwards) What was done with respect to the Militia was really Necessary in order to make them decent and respectable, I however heard sometime ago of farther Intentions of his, wch I can't say much for, but perhaps I was misinformed, Much favor was Shewn to certain persons in these Appointments but what I have principally to observe at present, is, that there seems to be a Law necessary for inforcing Obedience

& subjecting them to fines, as I understand some insinuate that the prest Militia bill can't operate or Extend to the New Regts tho' I should think otherwise & that it must Extend to all the Militia that shall be in the Province, This you can easily explain to me. Sir H Moore Expressed his desire of putting the Militia upon a more regular footing than formerly, he politely sent me blank Commissions for sevl Regiments (as Indeed all the Govrs have done) & he paid regard to my Recommendations in favor of sevl of the field Officers, but in some Instances that Method & Uniformity was forgotten Some Whole Regts were formed within the Dist of my Command, without even my knowledge, neither do I as yet know their bounds, and I am told Mr Schyler of Albany who seemed to Influence much in these Matters got some principal Officers Commissions, who really were not Extremely fitting for it; In the Regiment of Horse I have heard of a Majors being appointed that is by no means equal to Sevl persons I could Mention, I should be glad to recomend to you for this Majority Lt Augustin Prevost late of the 60th Regt who is settled & has a good property near Cherry Valley, There is a Vacancy also of a Major in Col Sternberghs Regt. at Scohare, for which I take the liberty to recomend Peter B Vrooman who was Mentioned to Sr Henry who promised to send his Commission but his death prevented. There are some more Vacancies & other Matters to be mentioned on this subject which I shall refer to another opportunity Concluding at present with Assuring you that I am ever with the highest Esteem Dr Sir,

The Honble Lt. Govr Colden

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson hall Novr 2d 1769

Dear Sir

Mr Croghan my Deputy now going to Fort Pitt to enquire into the State of Indian Affairs, begs to have the honor of an Introduction to you, having some Land matters to Settle and Patents to take out at N York In which he hopes for your Countenance, as he is a Gent that is Well known, and one for whom I have always had a great regard, I persuade myself he will meet with your notice.

I had the pleasure of writing you a pretty long Letter on the 4th ulto and as I may soon Expect to be favored with your answers I have only at present to add that I am always with Cordial Regard

Dear Sir &ca

COL. DUNCAN ON SIR WILLM JOHNSON'S HEALTH; NOV. 1769.

Yr friend Sr Wm Johnson is sore fail'd he is every now & then in a bad way, wherefore is thot not to last many years more, which will be a great loss to mankind in general, but particularly to this neighbourhood & I don't see that any one of the Family is capable of keeping up the genl applause when he is gone.

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO LT GOV. COLDEN.

Johnson hall Novr 23d 1769.

Dear Sir

I have had the pleasure of receiving your kind Letter of the 5th Inst and am much obliged to you for the friendship you Express in it on the subjects of my last. I hope that this will find you a little rested after the formalities & troubles on entering upon Government,

I am really at a Loss which will be the best method for securing the Lands of the two Mohock Villages, It should Certainly be done in the way that is likely to be most Effectual as well as Satisfactory to them, and in this point your Judgment will better direct you as to what is most likely to be the strongest security thereof, against any future attempts to deprive them of it.

You may be assured that the Division petitioned for, for the County of Albany, is the most rational, & liable to the fewest Objections of any that could be thought of, and that should it be Carried through the House it will be of advantage to the Settlemts and property this Way, without prejudice to the rest.

The affair of the Militia in my Opinion deserves some Serious Attention as well from the present Aspect of Indian Affairs as for the Credit of the Province, and it would give me pleasure that it

was completed under Your Administration. Sir H Moore divided the Province into Two Brigades, over the Northern of which Extending from the Highlands to the North & West Bounds of the Province he placed me as Brigadier, which you know was going down rather than preferrment to me did I stand upon Nicetys, but I flattered myself that I might be of some Service & shall endeavor it,—The very Extensive County of Albany till then one Regiment of 2 Battns & Containing abt 6000 Men fit for Arms he divided, into several Regiments of a reasonable Number from 500, to 1000 men, whose Districts being small, they are easy assembled without inconvenience to the Inhabitants & therefore can be under much better Comand & Discipline To Explain the Whole of which Col: Guy Johnson who was appointed Adjt Genl of the District incloses you a Return of their General state as nearly Corresponding with the Regular forms as the difference of the service would admit, at the same time It is necessary for me to observe to you that there were some Regiments formed, of which I had not any previous notice neither have the Colonels ever made a return of them or their District, tho' since they were formed Two Orders have been issued for that purpose. In particular a Regiment formed about Fort Edward South Bay & its Environs of which I hear Major Skene is Colonel, a Regiment formed of the Inhabitants of Ranslaerwyck, another of the Mannor of Livingston Another of Claverack Kenderhook &ca & the Regiments below it have not made any return. I don't as yet know what is the State of the Militia of Cumberland Co: or whether it is Certainly Regimented, or not,—The same Divisions that were made for the County of Albany, appear necessary to be made in Dutchess or Ulster Countys in proportion to their Extent and Numbers, I Understand the Dutchess Co: or Coll Hoffmans Regt. consists of 2 Battns which considering the increase of population &ca will now I dare say make four Regiments, and from the best enquirys I have hitherto, made, the same may be done with Col Hardenburghs & Ellisons Regiments in Ulster, whether any thing in that way Was done lately or not I cant say but doubtless it can be easily be known at N York whether any, or what Comns were issued for that purpose in the office of Sir Henrys Private Secy who did all that business during his administration.—If not done, I do really think it

necessary for the safety & reputation of the Province.—The Regt. of Horse given to my Son, is to be formed throughout the District, there are already a Troop at Albany, one at Schenectady & one at Esopus which shod Certainly and wh I have ordered to be incorporated into it, & the remainder raised throughout the District in the best manner.—I don't Apprehend that there is much need of a bill to inforce Establishmt always admitted to be a Royal prerogative, but that the Militant body, however divided, or United, must be obedient to Command.—The Major I wrote about in the Regt of Horse is actually appointed tho' by all accts unfit for it when Compared with the Gents I recommended, for I think Where there are Gents of property who have been in the Military service they are the fittest persons.

I should be glad you would furnish me with such Orders as you may think necessary in any of these Matters, as I think it a matter of some importance that will if properly Executed do honor to the Kings representative, in proportion as its necessity becomes more universally felt.

The Regiments in the forming of which I had a particular hand were those this way, of these the Scohare Regt wants still a Major occasioned by Sr Harrys death, for this majority I recommended & take the Liberty to recomend to you Peter B. Vroman, & for the Regt. for the City of Albany Roseboom, I don't know of any other Vacancies from Alby Westward, except that by the death of the Patroon concerning whose Regt I have as yet no return, but there will be many Commissions wanting should you approve of dividing those of Dutchess & Ulster Counties as the rest.

In the return herewith transmitted the Total of the Columns is not cast up, there were of necessity, such a number of Blanks As this return was intended to give you a Genl. Idea of the Whole until one more perfect could be made, and in the forming of those Regiments who now are Less than 500 men, regard was had rather to the Circumstances of their Situation & future encrease than to their present numbers which are daily Augmenting.

The Honble C. Colden Esqr Lt Govr, New York.

THE SAME TO THE HON. OL. DELANCEY.

Johnson-hall Decr. 1st. 1769.

Dear Sir.

You may recollect that I formerly wrote to you concerning Milns Patent of 500 acres adjoyning my Estate, when you was so kind as to say that you would then Lease it till S^r^ Pet^r^ Warrens Children were of age, and afterwards befriend me in case I became a purchaser.—As they are now of Age, I would willingly buy that Tract, because tho' of little consequence in itself it in some measure interferes with the Lots of two of my Tenants, and is so situated as to be of more value to me than to any body else, As I presume it will be sold, I know you can settle this matter for me, & I dare say will do it as a friend.

I have nothing material to add from this Quarter at present but with my sincerest wishes for your health and happiness I remain always Dear Sir

Your affectionate
and very humble serv^t^.

The Honble
Oliver DeLancey Esq^r^.

LORD HILLSBOROUGH TO SIR W^M^. JOHNSON.

Duplicate. Whitehall, 9th. Decr. 1769.

Sir,

M^r^. Pownall having acquainted you in his Letter of the 6^th^. of September, that your dispatch N^o^. 9 had been received and laid before the King; I am now to acknowledge the having since received your Letters N^s^. 10, & 11, which having been read by the King, His Majesty was graciously pleased to express, that he had no doubt of the uprightness of your intentions in the execution of the Instructions relative to the Boundary Line, and in giving way to the motives which you say induced you to deviate from those Instructions; I have therefore only to add upon this subject that since you have thought fit not to mention to the Indians His Majesty's wish to decline the Cession of the Lands below the Kanawa, it is His Majesty's pleasure that you should declare the Royal Ratification of the Treaty at Fort Stanwix in such manner

as has been usual on the like occasions, with an exception however to the private Grants, to the Traders, and to Mr. Croghan, which, as I have before mentioned to you, His Majesty rererves for further consideration, when the persons interested shall apply for his Majesty's confirmation of them.

Your vigilant attention to what passes in the Indian Country is much approved by the King, and His Majesty considers your holding an interview with the Indians at Onondaga, and making a Tour through their Country with a view to discover their present temper and disposition, as a well judged, and expedient measure.

Your apprehensions that the Commotions amongst these Savages proceed from foreign influence and intrigue, render the continuance of that watchfull attention to what is passing amongst them highly necessary. The King has the fullest confidence in your activity on this occasion, and I am commanded by His Majesty to desire you will omit no opportunity of communicating to General Gage, (to whom I write on this subject by this Packet,) every circumstance of intelligence of this nature that can be collected.

That discernment which is so distinguishing a part of an Indian's Character will not allow me to suppose that the idle messages and Talks of French Agents can operate materially to wean their affections from the British interest; it rather leads to a belief that Reports of such connection are merely calculated to create foundation for those Demands, which it is so difficult to satisfy; but from whatever cause it arises, His Majesty has the fullest reliance that with your knowledge of the temper and character of the Indians, and the just confidence they have in your regard for their true interest you will not find it very difficult to disappoint any expectations that may be entertained of inducing them, in case of a sudden Rupture, to turn their Arms against us.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient
humble servant
HILLSBOROUGH.

Sir William Johnson Bart.

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO LT GOV. COLDEN.

Johnson-hall Jany 5th 1770.

Dear Sir,

Tho' I had the pleasure of Writing you pretty fully on Militia Affairs in General yet from a late Letter from Mr Banyar I find you would be desirous of more particular information especially as to the Regiment at Claverack, I need not give you the Trouble of reading the Case & petitions of the Inhabitants of that Neighbourhood as I understand they have been laid before You, but I inclose you a Copy of Capt Hogebooms letter to me which I laid before Sir Henry Moore but as he died about the Time It must have reached New York it went too late ;—

I before observed to you that Sevl of the Colonels within my Brigade having neglected to make me returns my Information concerning some of the Regiments is collected from the Accots of others, which however I have reason to think I can depend upon.

The necessity of dividing the Overgrown Regiments, and the divisions that had already been made for that purpose furnished a pretence for creating that Regimt for Col. Ranslaer, A Regiment there was necessary, but the Mode of Establishing it was very faulty. It appears to have been concerted to favor his Claim in the disputed Lands there, at Least so it is conceived by the Inhabitants, and the manner in which it has been conducted Justifies that Apprehension, as first the Commissions by Ante dating them are Countersigned by Mr Livingston several Months before he was Secretary, The Commissions of the Inferior Officers are dated before the Colonels and Consequently they are made Officers in a Regiment that did not then Exist, but I conclude it was necessary to get off the Commissns as quick as possible for private reasons, for it should be observed that the dates of all the Comns given to the inferior Officers living on the Contested Lands were previous to the Trial of the Crown's Cause against Mr. Ranslaer, another Circumstance is, that they have left out Kenderhook intirely, and that they have taken the Officers from such places and in such manner as Joyned to what I have already Mentioned manifests a Notorious partiality arising in all probability from very Interested motives, and I have ye greatest reason to think that Col Schuyler made himself very busy on that occasion as he does

on many others, and that to his eagerness & ignorance in these matters some of the egregious blunders may be attributed.—he found means to attach himself very Closely to Sir H Moore, who I presume thought he might be of use & therefore I am informed suffered himself to be influenced and directed by him in many matters, with which he had no pretensions to Concern himself.

Upon the Whole I should think that the bounds of that Regiment would be well to be altered & made to begin where the Reg^{t} to the Northward ends, & to Extend to Livingstons Mannor, and in case the Number of Inhabitants are too large within these Limits to divide it into 2 Reg^{ts}, and I submit it to you whether some of the Gent^{s} sho^{d} be Continued in their present Commissions, & whether new Ones should not issue to be filled up at N York in a more equitable manner, The Readiest way to do which will be to Issue New Commissions for the Whole Regiment, describing its bounds so as to give no appearance of favor to any Land Claim, & putting in or Leaving out such of the Officers as are most fitting. Capt Hogebooms Case deserves Consideration as I know him to be an old Unexceptionable Officer, & a man of property in that Country—and that I may in future be enabled to know & report the true State of the Militia within my District, I could wish you would please to Issue an Order to all the Colonels within My Brigade to pay due regard to the orders they shall receive from me or from the Adjutant General of the District, which some of them I imagine purposely neglect, & which I think ought to be taken Notice of.—I know you will Excuse the freedom of my hints on this Subject, and as to sending blank Commissions for the Militia, I am equally convinced of its Impropriety, I think it my duty, from my Station & acquaintance in the Country to recommend Officers to the Governor for the time being, and tis true that I Generally received them blanks, of which I flatter myself it can appear that I never made a bad use, but I am really of opinion that such a Practice should not be Extablished, as I am aware of its ill Consequences, of which there are recent proofs. I hope that what I have said on the subject of the Claverack Regiment may be satisfactory, to which I shall add any farther Informations that I may receive being with the most perfect regard,

The Honble L^{t} Gov^{r} Colden. Y^{rs} W J

P S. I take the liberty to remind you of the Majors Comssⁿ for Peter B. Vroman of Col Jacob Starnbergh.s Regmᵗ at Scohare, that for Roseboom of Col David Van Derheydens Regmᵗ at Albany, & that for M. Augustine Prevost in the Regmᵗ of Horse, provided you approve of Superceding Scermerhorn, a person unfit every way for that Comisⁿ.—N B the two former are Vacant.

THE SAME TO LORD HILLSBOROUGH.

Private Johnson hall Feby 9th 1770.

My Lord

I was sometime ago honored with your Lordships Letter in favor of Major Gorham, whose Good Conduct & services I am very sensible of. Your Lordships favorable opinion of him with his own merit are motives so powerfull in his favor that I have still continued him as Dep. Agent for Nova Scotia and purpose to do so notwithstanding the present Limited allowance for the Department would oblige me to dismiss many Officers who could not be dispensed with, with due regard to the publick safety; Major Gorham is therefore continued in his Office, & pay as before.—

Lieut Benjⁿ. Roberts late of the 46th foot who has for near 4 Years Served as a Commissary, latterly at Michilimackinac in my Department now going for England being dismissed in consequence of the late reform has requested the Honor of presenting this to your Lordship, an Honor which I could not refuse him because during the time he was employed he faithfully and diligently discharged his duty and had he met with the necessary support would have proved of great use in that Country I know that I cannot give him a higher recommendation to your Lordship than by saying that he was a faithful servant to the Crown, and with the strongest sentiments of Gratitude for your Lordships favor and Esteem

I have the honor to be
My Lord,
&ᶜᵃ

The Rᵗ honble
The Earl of Hillsborough.

THE SAME TO LT GOV COLDEN.

Johnson hall Feby 9th. 1770.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your kind Letter of the 28th ulto. and am sensible that your Attention to the Affairs of the Assembly must have prevented you from applying your thoughts to any other matters for sometime past. I am very happy to find that matters have turned out so much to your satisfaction and that your Sallary has received such an Augmentation, The mover in that had doubtless his reasons for so Singular a Step so that I fancy you owe him no obligation for so doing.

As to Militia Affairs I don't think it probable that the Assembly will incline to pass an Act agreable to the late Instruction, tho' I should think an act of some years Continuance should be preferred to that Continuing it from year to year, His Majesty on knowledge of these circumstances, & from the necessity there is for a well regulated Militia here may probably give such other Instructions as will be better relished by the House, In the meantime altho' some may be obstinate and for want of a Law neglect to obey orders, I apprehend they can be dealt with in such a manner as to prevent the like hereafter, for should a Colonel, or Officer Commanding a Regiment refuse or neglect to make the necessary returns, or to do any other essential part of his duty it is in your power to remove him, which would not only be a sufficient mortification to him, but would prove a Caution to his Successor against offending in like manner, And indeed the man who takes advantage of the Want of a Law in matters of that nature is unworthy the Command of a Regimt.

The people of Kenderhook not only think themselves Affected by the Nature of the Claverack Regiments bounds, but from the Neglect put on some of the principal Inhabitants & old officers by the Nomination of men in a particular Interest as Well as the Appointment of young men never before in any service. I find upon strict enquiry that there is near 2000 men living within the Province between the South Bounds of the Patroons Mannor, & the North Line of Livingston Including Kenderhook, Claverack &ca, such a number would be best formed into 2 Regiments considering the increasing state of the Province, & twas on this

principle that all the new Regiments were formed, for Regiments of Extensive Limits & above 1000, cannot with so much Ease & Convenience be Assembled, Disciplined, or Commanded, I therefore take the Liberty of Suggesting to you, as the best way to Carry the Remainder of the Militia plan into Execution, that a Regim^{t} be formed from the South of the Mannor of Ranslaer to a Line drawn from Hudsons River East across Major Abrahams falls to the Bounds of the Province, and that Col Ranslaers Regiment Comprehend all the men South of that line as far as Livingstons Manor, & this I take to be the most Equitable & best division that can be made there, A Regiment might Likewise be formed from the West Side of Hudsons River from the South bounds of Renslaer to the South bound of Albany County, and to pursue the plan already begun, which for the reasons I have formerly given I cannot but approve of, it will be Equally necessary to divide the Militia of Ulster County, which from what I can find at present will make 4 Regiments, The like may be done in Dutchess County and the Militia will be found the better for it, in all respects which is my Sole Motive for recommending it to your Consideration—I should likewise remind you that the Regiment lately formed out of the Mannor of Ranslaer being Vacant by the Patroons death; It will be necessary to put in a New Colonel for it.

Sir H Moore when last here spoke to me concerning New Magistrates to be appointed in this Country, and I recommended a List to him of a few in consequence thereof I have since mentioned the Matter to M^{r} Banyar and (If I recollect right) to yourself, Sho^{d} you approve it I can Send you an Ample List of the most fitting persons within the compass of my knowledge in case you are disposed to issue a New Commission of the Peace. I had almost forgot to tell you that Sir H Moore issued his Dedimus Potest^{m}. to me, Col Johnson & L^{t}. Col Frey for Administering the Oaths to all officers Now appointed or hereafter in the County Nothwithstanding which I am informed that Col. Ranslaer & his friends have lately gone about with Commissions & had sev^{l} of his Officers Sworn in down the Country.

I shall be glad to find that the Resolutions of the Commissioners for Concerting the plan for Indian Trade may be such as will

Answer the importance of the Object, but the Expence necessary for the Execution of a proper plan and the differing sentiments & Interests of Colonies will I fear render it of little use.

At your Leisure I shall be very happy to hear from you on these Subjects and remain with great truth & Affection

Dear Sir,

The Honble Lieut Govr. Colden. &ca.

THE SAME TO LORD HILLSBOROUGH.

Johnson hall, Feby 10th 1770.

My Lord

In my last of 26th August (N° 11) I gave your Lordship an account of my Journey thro' the Country of the Six Nations to Seneca, with my proceedings at Sundry Conferences with the Indians, & acquainted you that Deputies were arrived from the Cherokees to request a meeting with the Six Nations & Canada Confederacys at Onondaga, which has since taken place, agreable to their desire, the result of which I waited for, as Judging it might be necessary for his Majestys Information. At this Congress the Cherokees Spoke on 20 belts to the Six Nations to renew & Strengthen the late Treaty of peace entered into between them and earnestly to request that in Consequence thereof the Six Nations should unite their Arms with them in order to attack sevl of the Southern and Western Nations who had acted as Enemys to both, after some time spent in deliberation, the Six Nations returned for Answer, That before they cod come to any resolution agreable to their former engagements they must first Conferr with me on the Subject, to which end they would take care of their Calumets & belts, & Send Deputys to me to desire a General Congress in my presence, & accordingly their Deputies have since come here with some of the Cherokees, earnestly requesting on the part of the Whole that I would as speedily as possible Assemble the Whole Confederacy, and after hearing what they had to say give them My advice and opinion on the subject, to Support their request, they observed that we were as much Interested as themselves in the matter having suffered repeated Insults from these people, as they Instanced in Mr Croghans being attacked & made prisoner by them on his way to Ilinois, & in their

attacks upon our Traders on *Ohio*. In short I observed that they were much inclined to Unite & attack those people, which gave me the more Concern because I knew that when Indians were resolved on War, if they could be diverted from their favorite pursuit they would be apt to turn their Arms another way, perhaps against ourselves, besides I was sensible of the great Expense that must attend such a Congress altho' of their own proposing and that wh cod be spared out of the fund allowed for the Department could not defray the Charge of so large & unexpected a Congress, In this situation I Consulted Genl Gage who is of opinion that as any Sum that can be spared out of the Annual Allowance, will be inadequate to the Expense that may attend it, I should first obtain his Majestys Orders for that purpose, but as the Indian Deps are very pressing, & that it will not be in my power to have an Answer within sufficient time to satisfy their importunity, whilst on the other hand I cannot refuse their request without occasioning a Genl Discontent amongst them I have resolved to Treat with some of the Chiefs only with all the Oeconomy I possibly can consistent with the public Safety, trusting that his Majesty will be graciously pleased, to consider the peculiarity of the Occasion, & not suffer me to be a Loser Thro' the Necessary Discharge of my Duty.

It is a disagreeable Circumstance that we must either agree to permit these people to Cut each others Throats, or risque their discharging their fury on Our Traders & defenceless Frontiers, for certain I am from the disposition they are in & from the Conduct of the back settlers the Latter may prove the Case, but however disagreeable the Alternative is, Common policy & our own Safety requires it, and under such Circumstances I shall endeavor to govern myself in the manner that appears best Calculated for the Genl Security of all his Majestys Subjects here.

The Situation of Affairs Since I had last the Honor of addressing your Lordship on these subjects has not Varied materially Altho' the Severity of the Season & the Embassy from the Cherokees keep them at present quiet, yet the Motives for their discontent Still Subsist, and the Lawless conduct of the frontier Inhabitants is the same whenever an Opportunity offers, so that the Event depends upon Circumstances that are as hard to forsee as to

prevent, and as there is no prospect of any Imediate remedy to be applied for these disorders, & the Licentiousness of some of our own people, my Endeavors Must be directed to prevent Their operation on the minds of the Indians till a more favorable period when the Orders of Government will be treated with more respect, and the people brought to a better sense of their Duty.

The Rt honble
The Earl of Hillsborough

LORD HILLSBOROUGH TO SIR W^M. JOHNSON.

Whitehall April 14th. 1770.

Sir,

I have received and laid before the King your Dispatch of the 10^th of Febry N°. 12.

The matter proposed to the Confederacy of the six Nations by the Cherokees is of great Importance; and it is with Concern His Majesty observes that the answer to be given to the Cherokees is made to depend upon your opinion and advice, by which the King will stand committed in measures which, if they adopt the proposition of a War against the Southern & Western Indians, are irreconcileable with the principles of humanity, and if on the contrary they tend to union of Indian Interests and Politicks, endanger the Security of His Majesty's Colonies by enabling the Savages to turn their Arms against Us.

This consequence however, which you seem to think would follow from discouraging a War against the Southern and Western Indians, is certainly to be avoided if possible, and therefore the King, however unwillingly, cannot but approve of your adopting the Alternative, and making the security of His Subjects and the Peace of the Frontiers, the principal Object of your attention at the Congress, but it would be most pleasing to His Majesty if it could be attained without encouraging the Savages in their barbarous attacks on each other.

It would have been more fortunate, upon every consideration, that this Congress could have been avoided, not only as it does in it's consequences involve His Majesty as a Party in a Business of

so disagreeable a nature, but also as it will, I find, be attended with an expence beyond what your stated allowance will admit of.

The King however relies upon your assurances on the one hand that this Expence is unavoidable, and, on the other, that the Service shall be conducted with all Frugality and Œconomy that is possible, consistent with the public Safety; and, under these assurances, His Majesty approves of your applying to Major General Gage who will have Orders to defray what Expence shall be absolutely necessary on this occasion.

It is to be hoped that it will not be long before those Colonies, whose security depends upon the good Will and Affection of the Savages, will see the necessity of such regulations as will be effectual to prevent those abuses which at present give so much Discontent to them. In the mean time you will not fail to exert every Influence in your Power to prevent these Abuses from having such an operation upon the Minds of the Indians, as to disturb that Tranquillity which is so essential to their true Interests.

I am with great Regard
Sir,
Your Most Obedient
Humble servant
HILLSBOROUGH.

SIR WM. JOHNSON TO LORD HILLSBOROUGH.

Johnson hall July 12th 1770.

MY LORD

Since I wrote your Lordship on the 10th of feby last (No 12) I have been honored with your Lordships Letter No 12 inclosing his Majestys Speech for which I offer my most humble thanks, as also your Letter No 13 in answer to my Dispatch concerning the proposed Congress, on which Subject I am Extremely happy to find that his Majesty approves of the alternative which I thought was the only one that under the circumstances I have had the honor to represent could be adopted with safety to the public.

As I was so fortunate as to foresee the sense of Government on this embarrassing Occasion, I do assure your Lordship that I took infinite pains, to avoid the Congress, but I find that It cannot be

either set aside, or postponed with safety, and above 500 of the Indians being already come to the place of rendezvous I purpose to set out to morrow to meet them, Judging that about the time of my Arrival there which is 50 miles from hence the Whole will be assembled, and I am very sorry to hear that There will be a Considerable number of them, because there is a Great Scarcity of all provisions at present throughout these parts, the Crops being almost totally destroyed by Caterpillars, & in the Indian Country many Corn fields are entirely ruined by them. After great trouble & difficulty I have at length got out of the hands of the Committee of non Importers at N York a Cargoe of Indian Goods without which I don't know how I should have gone to the Congress for whatever is the occasion, we cannot meet those people without some proofs of his Majestys Esteem more especially at some periods as now when Ind^{n} Goods are so scarce that sev^{l} parties have gone thro' all the stores & shops within 100 m^{s} with^{t} being able to procure one Doz^{n} of blank^{ts} it has been industriously propagated amst them by some Very Weak people that the Scarcity is occasioned by the King who has ordered that no goods shall be sent over to them This very dangerous report is so universal amongst them that I have been told of it in very Warm terms by above 100 Indians within the course of the present Week, many of them have brought down their peltry & returned almost naked, & full of resentment, The effects of which I am so sensible of that I thought it my Duty to undeceive them in the best manner I could on a point of such delicacy when the occasion of their present Wants & disappointments cannot be transferred from one, to another, without some danger to the publick.

You see my Lord Some of the difficulties in which my station involves me, but I have firmness enough to Support me under greater, when his Majestys Interest demands it of me and the Confidence which the Indians repose in me will I trust enable me to Clear up these disagreable matters so as they may not have any ill consequences to which End the presents will greatly contribute by removing their apprehensions till more favorable times shall set all matters right, I purpose at the Congress when Agreable to his Majestys Orders I proceed to the Ratification of the Fort Stanwix treaty to convince them that he has no desire for the Lands

they Ceded to the southward of the Kanhawa River, and to explain these points in a Way that I hope will be Satisfactory to the few of their Insatiable Dependts Who have pretended to be discontented at the Extent of a Cession so fully Agreed to in the largest Assembly that was ever yet held of the true & real Proprietors, and as I hear from the Southward that the Cherokees deny that their Depys, have orders to draw the Northern nations into so Extensive a War as has been represented to me I shall study to avail myself of it, in altering their purposes, but should it appear that the Authority of these Depys is indisputable & that the Northern Inds cannot be diverted from their purposes With any safety to the publick, I shall in that case make it as much their own affair, as possible, and endeavor to act in the manner most agreable to his Majestys Inclinations as Expressed in your Lordships Letter to me. I foresee much trouble and difficultys in the Course of the intended Congress, as well from the discontent shewn for so long a time by many of the Indians, & The very disagreable report, before mentd as from the want of any Appointments for the Regulation of Trade & the little prospect there is, of its ever being duly attended to but on all these matters I shall endeavor to give them the utmost satisfaction in my power, to prevent their operating to any disagreable purposes.—And his Majesty may be assured that on this or any other occasion I shall never presume to recommend or incurr any Expense, unless I am convinced from Experience, of its necessity, and in that case I shall conduct myself with the strictest Honor, & Integrity, and with a Frugality proportioned to the Exigency, and importance of the Service.

As I hope Within a few Weeks to give your Lordship an acct of the result of my Transactions, I have only at present to add that I am with all Imaginable respect,

My Lord &c.

The Rt honble
The Earl of Hillsborough,

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson hall August 14th 1770.

My Lord

On the 12th ult° I had the honor to write your Lordship my Letter N° (13,) previous to my Journey to hold a Congress with the Northern Indians & Depy^s from the southward, from whence I returned some days ago, attended by so many Tribes, and Messengers on the private business of each Nation, that it was not in my power earlier to transmit the proceedings which I now have the honor to Inclose.

From My last Letter your Lordship has been enabled to form some Judgment of my Embarrassment, arising from the disagreable nature of the business I had to engage in, on which account I held many Conferrences, (too long to be inserted) with the Leading men of each Nation upon my Arrival at the place of Congress, to which the Issue & Determination of the Indians as contained in the papers herewith Transmitted must be entirely attributed, They having at length agreed thro' the pains I took and the extraordinary prudence & good Conduct of some of the Chiefs whose abilities & Influence were peculiarly Exerted upon that occasion, To Stop proceedings against the Southern Indians, until they shall propose terms of accomodation & to decline their intended Application for our Assistance & Support in the War a Circumstance which gave me much uneasiness at first as I found that they came with a determined resolution to demand it in publick, and that not so much from necessity as with design thereby to Judge of the nature of our Friendship, and the regard we paid to former Engagements, of which they entertain great doubts, Concluding upon this to be a favorable occasion that must finally determine, & direct their Conduct towards us for as Strict Alliances with them are Considered both Offensive & Deffencive Any Evasion or refusal from us would undoubtedly in their present disposition have so far encreased their Suspicions & Resentment as to make our Trade & frontiers Severely feel the effects of that Spirit of War which now predominates amongst them, At a time when we are very ill Calculated to defend the one, or the other, howsoever matters may be misrepresented with regard to our Strength or their Weakness for whilst they Exist in their present State they are able to make

us Severely to feel their power without the possibility of their Sustaining a proportionate Loss even from a Vigorous Exertion of our Abilities, So that My Lord disagreable as was the Alternative on which the issue of the proceedings first Appeared to depend, I found that a trifling Circumstance when compared with the prospect of either drawing his Majesty contrary to the principles of humanity to be an Actor in their Quarrells, or to see at least a Temporary end put to the Indn Trade, and the Total ruin of those Settlements which Industry & peace have added to the Colonies, this I thought myself bound to prevent as well from humanity as duty and I hope the measures I pursued for that purpose will be honored with his Majestys Approbation, as In so doing I carefully avoided discovering what would have been the resolutions of the Crown, & so Conducted it as to make the Issue of the Congress flow from their own resolutions, on a farther & more mature consideration of the business proposed.

The Number of the Inds. who attended upon this occasion being , the great scarcity owing to the destruction of the farmers crops this year, and the particular obligations, I was under to the steadyness & good behavior of so many Leading Men amongst them which I was under the necessity of rewarding over & beside the present, but particularly the distress they were in for cloathsg, from the total want of Indn. Goods, have encreased the Expence of this Congress much beyond my Inclinations, but as it was unavoidable, I trust all things considered, It will be found cheap, salutary & advantagious to his Majestys Interest, without a due regard to which I should not have incurred it.

The rest of the proceedings which consisted in the Ratification of the Treaty at Fort Stanwix, and the subject of Grievances will require my saying some little upon. As to the first, your Lordship will observe sufficiently from the publick conferences, the satisfaction Expressed by the Inds. at the whole of that Treaty with the resolutions they have taken to render it permanent & acceptable to all their Dependants. The latter are only the principal Grievances which were spoken in publick, besides which there were many others of an Inferior Nature not inserted, as they would have added much to the bulk of my Transactions & might

be deemed unworthy the attention of Government,—they nevertheless gave me much Trouble, & occasioned great delay, which was of most concern to me, as the daily maintenance of such a number of Indˢ. amounted to a large sum, to abridge which I gave them my whole time both by Day & Night, & thereby considerably shortened the Time of our Setting.

Your Lordship will find that the principal Grievances complained of in publick regarded the conduct of our frontier Inhabitants towards them, & the state of the Indⁿ. Trade, The first (as I have repeatedly observed) is what they have but too much reason to Complain of & which they have retaliated in a very few Instances, Tho' I know the contrary is too often represented. I have on former occasions said so much of the Licentious Spirit of the Inhabitants on the Southern Frontiers, that I need only add that it still continues, & their malevolence & disregard to all Treatys is still Demonstrated, whensoever they fall in the way of any small Partys, or single Indˢ. Even since I began this Letter I have recᵈ dispatches from Mʳ. Croghan at Fort Pitt acquainting me that a soldier had shot an Indian there & that another was killed by a Virginian two days after near to that River. The continuance of which proceedings will render all Transactions with them abortive, and altho' agreable to their Wishes some farther directions to the Govrˢ. would give pleasure to the Indˢ. Yet I fear it is not in the present state of things in the power of our Governments here to put a stop to these Evils.

As to the Affairs of Trade I wish I could say that they had no cause of Complaint, but the contrary has been too often manifested of late. Commissioners are indeed appointed to meet from some of the Colonies, but it is not Expected that an Expence will be incurred adequate to the Service, in which case it is much better to do nothing, But a still greater & more alarming circumstance arose from the wants & disappointmᵗ of the Indˢ. in consequence of the non importation Agreemtˢ. Those with whom they Traded embraced that opportunity of accounting for the cause of their wants, as prejudice dictated, & therefore had I not fallen upon a happy mode of Explanation, or they been accustomed to doubt the Veracity of the Traders, It would have

had the Worst Consequences. These Secret Negotiations which from their bulk cannot appear on the face of the proceedings are the Ground Work of the Whole, & the beforement^{d}. Circumstance proved no small addition to the Expence, as I was Willing to falsify a representation of so dangerous a Tendency persuaded that in so doing it should be approved of.—Another Circumstance much complained of as well during the Treaty, as since by those Indians who accompanied me to this place is of the great Cargoes of Rum wch (of late in particular) are sent amst them to their ruin, as they call it, Many Traders carry little or nothing else because their profits upon it are so Considerable, and whatever resolutions they enter into, the Ind^{s}. have not Virtue enough to withstand the Temptation when it comes ams^{t} them, They therefore beg it may not be suffered to come to their Castles, or hunting places, & indeed the Licentious abuse of the sale notwithstanding its peculiar profit, is Extremely hurtfull to the Trade in Gen^{l}. from its effects upon the Ind^{s}. besides its giving Encouragement to the meanest & most profligate Traders to go amongst them, in that neither capacity or knowledge of the Ind^{s}. or their Language is necessary for the sale of it, but very little remedy can be Expected here ag^{t}. the abuse of that Liquor, tho' its effects are daily manifested.—Again, whenever Ind^{s}. are assembled on publick affairs, there are always Traders secreted in the neighbourhood & some publickly who not only make them intoxicated during the Time intended for business, but afterw^{ds}. get back great part of their presents in Exchange for Spirituous Liquors, thereby defeats the Intentions of the Crown, & causing them to commit many disorders as well amst the Inhabitants as themselves This is Grievously complained of by the Ind^{s}. but I know of no final Law at present subsisting for restraining the sale of that pernicious Liquor even during publick business, which I humbly conceive should be recommended to the immediate attention of the American Legislatures, As well as some Law for the more effectual apprehending & punishing offenders on the frontiers in a summary way.—

Another Head of which your Lordship may find the Ind^{s}. make mention, is their want of Religious Teachers; on this subject they greatly enlarged, at sev^{l}. Conferences I had with them & appear

to consider it as so great a neglect in Govt. that I judged it most advisable to give them better hopes, & thereby put an end to their murmuring, The majority of Inds. tis true, do not as yet request it, but even they consider our neglecting to Gratify those that are so disposed, as a farther instance of our indifference & disregard. I have formerly mentioned this subject on applications from some of the Tribes, It is now become a matter of more serious concern from the earnestness with which the whole were about to second the desire of a few, and when so fair an opportunity is afforded, I apprehend it is unnecessary to enlarge on the advantage it must be of to the State to secure those who have been already instructed in its Religion, and to render diffusive those Religious & Civil Sentiments, that are best calculated for its advantage & support. The Mohocks have had Missionaries of the Church of England amongst them from the Reign of Queen Anne till within these few years, they are now without any, & from the scarcity of Clergymen or some other cause, the Society cannot procure them on the Sallary which their small funds have limitted them to, whilst at the same time the Inds. find that their Brothers in Canada &ca, who were our Enemies, are regularly supplied, & one lately appointed in Nova Scotia at the Expence of Government as tis said, I therefore cannot help at the Intreaty of the Inds. humbly recommendg to his Majestys consideration, the affordg some allowance for the Mohock Mission which has always been under the imediate protection of the Crown, declaring it as my belief that if any farther provision could be made to employ others in so good a work it would increase their reverence for the Crown, and their attachment to the British Interest.

The other matters spoken upon during the Treaty (tho' they occupied a good part of my time then, & occasioned sevl. hundred Inds. to follow me home,) are such as I trust may be Settled without any Trouble to Govt. The Messages which the Inds. have resolved upon to send to the South & Westward, supported by the Steps I shall take will I hope have weight & prove Serviceable in a high degree, and in order to be armed against any thing that may in another Quarter threaten to disturb the publick Tranquility, I have taken measures to be informed as early as possible

with the proceeds. & Issues of the Congress, which they are about this time to hold at the Great plains of Sciota near the Ohio, where some are endeavoring to form Confederacys, for very bad purposes, Secretly countenanced & Supported by French Traders, Renegadoes, & all those Inds. who have not hitherto been Seriously attached to the English, but with wonderfull Art have for a time past endeavored to Shake the fidelity of the Six Nations, thro' the means of some of the Seneca Towns that are most dissatisfied with our Conduct.

I have in the Course of this Letter touched upon the principal Subjects of both the public & private Conferences at the late Congress this is as much as I could do from the Variety of matters that occur upon such occasions which however trivial in Appearance demand my particular attention, upon the Whole I must observe that the Indians are at present in a state of uncertainty as to what course they shall take, The Measures lately taken have Strengthened the fidelity of our Friends, and afforded a temporary Satisfaction to others, but it is on the Continuance of them and the Adoption of the Wisest measures for their redress & Satisfaction we must solely rely for the Securing their fidelity; which tho Comparatively of little moment when weighed with the great Objects of Concern wherein the Crown is so deeply interested, is nevertheless in a relative View, from a Variety of peculiar Circumstances worthy the most serious Consideration, and therefore I most humbly recommend the heads herein treated of, as what may be productive of the most happy Effects to this Country, If by any means they can be carried into Execution under the Auspices of the Crown. To promote which My Lord my Whole Influence & the Small remainder of my health shall be most Willingly devoted.

I hope to be honored wth. your Lordships Comds on the foregoing subjects, & am with the highest respect,

My Lord, Your Lordship's

most Devoted & most humble Servt.

To the Earl of Hills Burgh.

14 Aug. 1770.

SIR W^{M}. JOHNSON TO HON: OL. DE LANCEY.

Johnson hall Novr. 9th. 1770.

Dear Sir,

In Answer to your favor of April, 1769, I wrote you on the 20th of March in that year on the Subject of a Suit Commenced by Abraham Sterling against Lady Warren, to which Letter, as I have not had the pleasure of receiving your Answer, as well as on account of a Letter I have lately received from Ireland I think it necessary to give you the trouble of another on the Subject.

This Last Letter is from Mr Sterling who writes me that he has received Lady Warren's Answer to his Bill, and that he is to Collect the Vouchers & Accots against me & to be Supported with her Aid to recover his demand Concluding with the usual Apologies, and the best he can make for so doing:—To prevent a repetition I beg to referr to my Letter of the 20th. of March before mentioned, only again repeating That he is the Only Connection I have that is not perfectly Satisfied of those Truths I have so often repeated, and that he does not appear to be so, must be entirely attributed to his unhappy Circumstances and perhaps his Character, which however I know very little of,—Allow me to add that whatever trouble Lady Warren has had thro the Necessitys of an unhappy Individual (because I am persuaded she has never been troubled by any of the rest) yet I cannot but conceive that my own Case is much harder, if I am to have the Smallest trouble on the Score of that Extraordinary Legacy of my Uncles, whilst his Estate was, as it still is, in my debt, and which I have more than once Assigned the true reasons for my hitherto neglecting to Sue for, and recover my Just demands.—If it must be Litigated it will appear that I have acted with perhaps uncommon delicacy, far exceeding what the case was entitled to, and that purely thro' a tender regard for my Uncles Memory & Character, because my Acct ag^{t}, him was Short of what I could have Justly brought, & particularly in a few Articles which If Lady Warren cannot recollect I shall never mention Whilst his Acct agt. me altho' I was so generous as to admit it, contains many Articles which I never sent for, or desired, and which were Solely appropriated to his use but never to mine, *His Acct for a variety of reasons which*

at present it is unnecessary to enlarge upon, will appear very Extraordinary whilst every particular of mine can be proved upon Oath with some other matters I would willingly suppress,—I am not sufficiently acquainted with the Legal Mode of proceeding in this Case, but I think it necessary that Lady Warren should be made acquainted thro' you with my resolution to take such Steps as the Law directs for doing myself Justice, and you may be assured that It is abundantly in my power to satisfy you, or any other Gentleman of the propriety of my Conduct and the Justice of my Cause.

I shall for the present quit a Subject which must be disagreable to us both, Assuring you that it will give me great pleasure to hear from you not meerly on the foregoing but on any other that occurs, and for which doubtless you will have Sufficient materials, as I believe you will all be busy enough at the Capital in a little time on which occasion I sincerely wish you and your Friends, success in any of their undertakings, being with true regard,

Dear Sir,

The Honble
Oliver De Lancey Esq^{r}.

P. S. Having been much hurried whilst writing y^{e} foregoing, & forgot to Ask whether you wrote to Lady Warren for my Bonds as you were pleased to promise you would, also about that piece of Land w^{h}. was Milns, & now Joins to some of mine, w^{h}. is y^{e}. reason I would willingly purchase it.

SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON TO LORD HILLSBOROUGH.

Johnson hall Feby 18th 1771

My Lord,

Since I had the honor to receive your Lordships Letters N^{os} 14. and 15. The last of which came to my hands a few days Since I waited to receive such Informations as I had reason to Expect from the Southward in order to Communicate the same thro' your Lordship to his Majesty.

The Advices I have now received enable me to acquaint you that the Great Council lately held at the plains of Sioto is ended. That the designs and endeavors of the Indians in that quarter,

was to promote such a Union as I before apprehended and endeavored with all possible Caution to Obstruct; but that the advice given to those of the Northern Alliance joyned to their private aversion for some of the rest, had occasioned it to end after many Debates in General resolutions for promoting peace, amongst all the Nations as a necessary Introduction to a more Strict Alliance between the Northern & Southern people, which is to have for its Object some particular undertaking, for which matters did not appear during the Congress sufficiently ripe, and of this I can have no reason to doubt from the present Maxims of Policy and Sentiments adopted, by the more Belligerent Nations of both Alliances.

The Deputies which were sent from the Northern Confederacy with Sundry belts &ca from them & myself, agreeable to the resolutions at the Treaty I held last July at the German flatts, met the Indians from Scioto at Fort Pitt in December last, and have agreeable to their Instructions in a Spiritted Speech Summoned them all to reassemble at Scioto without delay, when, and not before they would Communicate to them the Determined Resolutions of the Northern Ind^{s} entered into at the German flatts Treaty together with the Subject of the Embassy, on which they have One hundred belts. As I have great Confidence both in the fidelity and Abilities of sev^{l} of these Deputies I have good hopes that when they meet those Nations to whom they have been sent, they will be able to defeat any dangerous Schemes or Resolutions which are yet in View in that Country, and awaken those Nations fears who have given Offence to the Northern Confederacy, which will prove a Sufficient check to their other designs, and if I am disappointed in my Expectations It must be thro' some Accident or Occurrence against which no provision can be made at this time.

The Apprehensions which I long since communicated of a Union between the Northern and Southern Indians, and which your Lordship makes particular mention of in your Letter N^{o}. 14. is really a matter of the most Serious Nature, for if a very Small part of these people have been capable of reducing us to such Straits as we were in a few years Since, what may we not Expect from such a formidable alliance as we are threatned with, when at

the same time it is well known that we are not at this time more Capable of defence, If so much, as at the former period. This is in some measure the consequence of their becoming better acquainted with their own Strength, and united Capacity to preserve their importance and Check our advances into their Country, for at the beginning of the late War through the rapid advances for sometime made by the French &ca, The Indians did really conceive that we should be totally reduced, but as they discovered the increased population of this Country, even in the midst of its distresses and that our Army was Still recruited with fresh Regiments, their sentiments altered; They began to entertain more respectable Ideas of us & of our Resources, and thro' the imprudence of our own People & their Natural Suspicions, have gradually become more & more alarmed for themselves, Tho' they still believe that it is in their power to give us such a Check as may prevent us from attempting what they apprehend we have in View. Many will talk, some will think, and a lesser Number will act otherwise, but this is nevertheless The True political State of their sentiments in general at present. As I know the nature of their unions, and that the Southern Ind^{s} found many of the rest in Sufficient employment during the Long war that subsisted between them so I could not help suggesting my Apprehensions of the Consequences of the peace I had orders to effect between these people; but the Laws of Humanity, The entreaty of the Southern Indians and the earnest desire of some Colonies who represented themselves as affected by that War, being powerfull Considerations prevailed over, what might be judged as a distant, or simple Apprehension; I sincerely wish it may not Contribute to any ill consequence, and Shall Constantly and Steadily use all the means in my power to prevent it; but altho' it may be treated as a Chimera at this time, Yet I can positively assure your Lordship that both Spaniards & French, the latter of whom act the part of Agents did and do still Continue to make presents to all the Nations to whom they can have any access by the Rivers which discharge themselves into the Misisipi, and that they do constantly endeavor to thwart our Measures by various Stories & Misrepresentations, which being Supported by favors & coming from a people of whom they entertain no Apprehensions, against a people from

whom most of the Indˢ imagine they have every thing to fear, renders it almost impossible to prevent them from having some effect.

The Indians have for sometime discovered that a War is probably at hand, Many of them think that it has already Commenced, but that we conceal it from them on acct of some Advantages the Enemy has gained, and in Consequence of this during last week I was Visited by Deputations from most of the Six Nations, to whom I gave such Answers as I judged best Calculated for the purpose in any Event that may happen in Europe, If a War commences & that any attempts are made in America, or in case the Indˢ shoᵈ be seduced to disturb our frontiers, to draw part of our attention that way, I am confident (as I formerly proposed) that I can from the measures I have taken, & the influence I possess secure & Attach to our Interest if impowered so to do, such a body of Indˢ as if not so numerous as those against us, will give a Severe Check to their Attempts & as the distᵗ Indˢ dread nothing so much at present as a quarrell Amongst themselves, I am equally confident that the Very Appearance of some, in the Character of Vigorous Allies, will in any Quarrell whether thro' the Intrigues of a European power, or of a Confederacy amsᵗ the Indˢ. themselves prove greatly advantagious to us, and tend to defeat their purposes as much as any Measures that can be adopted, which I most humbly Submit to your Lordships Consideration in case my Apprehensions should be realized by future Events or Occurences.

In consequence of a former Letter wherein your Lordship signified his Majestys Inclination that the Indian boundary Line should be continued from where it was made to terminate by the Treaty of 1768. (at Canada Creek or Wood Creek) I have Conferred with the Chiefs of the Nations Interested, over whom I have in general so far prevailed that I believe they will when Assembled for that purpose, admit of its Extension far to the Northward perhaps to the River Sᵗ Lawᶜᵉ. I therefore hope to be honored with instructions respecting my Conduct previous to my taking any farther Steps therein, and remain with profound respect

My Lord Yʳˢ &ᶜ most faithfull
& most Obedᵗ Hᵇˡᵉ Sert.

The Rt honble The Earl of Hillsborough

THE SAME TO G^W. BANYAR, ESQ.

Johnson hall June 28 1771

SIR

I have received your letter communicating your Directions from the Council concerning the Indian who has applied to his Excellency the Governor for protection, which I wish it was in my power to answer to the full Satisfaction of the Board, but it is impossible at present to know any thing with certainty. Some time ago, this Indian came to my House, and produced a Pass from the L^t Governor of Pensilvania. On my asking him some Questions He told me that he was then lately returned from the Ohio, where he had been Visiting his Friends y^e Shawnese & others, who advised him not to return to this Province, but that he had resolved to return to Albany as it was the place with which he was best acquainted, and that he would endeavour to procure a livelyhood by becomeing a Battoe Man, but tho he endeavoured to be considered as a Shawanese I found he could give little or no Acc^t of that country, or y^e People, and verry soon after he was seized, I sent down y^e Country. The bill of Sale and other Papers you mention are Circumstances that appear strongly against him, and he cannot prove his assertion from any knowledge of the Language, or other particulars concerning his Tribe in the Shawanese Nation, It is certainly a constant practice amongst the Western nations to sell their Captives of the *Panie* Nation, as well as some others their next neighbours under that Denomination, and Canada &c^a depends a good deal on their labour, but there is no Instance of their selling any others, neither would they offer to do so, unless some person too young to give an Account of Himself should be found amongst the Panies, whether he falls under that Predicament, or indeed of what Nation he actually is no certainty can be obtained at this distance of time, unless by Enquiry amongst those who sold him, which would take up a good deal of time, & perhaps prove to little purpose; But as I understand that the Person who claims him, is more desirous to remove him out of his neighbourhood, than to make any advantage of him, I should think that if he was sold within these Colonies, or Suffered to pursue the Inclinations he has expressed, paying his Master out of his Labours, what may be Judged reasonable, It would Savour more of Humaniy than

to send him as a Slave to the West Indias, whilst any doubts remain concerning his People or Origin.

I am Sir,
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
Golds Borrow Banyar Esq^r W. JOHNSON.

My Compliments to the Cheif Justice & let him know that I have sent his letter by a Safe Hand to M^r Lyne.

SIR W^M. JOHNSON TO LORD HILLSBOROUGH.

Johnson Hall August 9th 1771.

MY LORD,

I was lately honored with your Lordships Letter (N^o 16) which I delayed answering for some days, that I might at the Same time acq^t y^r Lordship with the Issue of a Congress I was then about to hold with the Six Nations, which was occasioned by Informations received by my Deputy at Fort Pitt from a Shawanese Indian & others, The Substance of which was that the Six Nations, were concerned in Exciting the Shawanese, Delawares, & many others to make war upon us, & altho this had been formerly propagated without any just grounds or foundation, I judged it best policy to Call the Chiefs to a Congress thereon, in order to shew, that such designs by whatsoever nation carried on, could not be totally concealed from us, which might prove a Check on the nation that first excited it, and render them Suspicious of each other. The Chiefs only were Summoned, but many more attending to the number of 350. I opened the Conference the 14th ult^o which held for several days;—I began by acquainting them with the obligation they were under to give me the earliest Information that was in any wise Interesting, & that I was Surprized to hear from another quarter of some dangerous Transactions w^ch might prove the ruin of those concerned, adding that I expected to have the certain particulars from them.—On their appearing ignorant of what I hinted at I gave them to understand that I had received an acco^t of their being engaged in promoting a rupture with the Ind^s the event of w^ch must have proved very fatal to themselves,—They

gave me many assurances to the contrary and requested to know their accusers, On which I related to them w^t^ I thought sufficient to convince any that might have been privy thereto, that no designs of any Ill tendancy, could long remain a secret to the English, This produced many speeches on both sides, The last of which being the most material, I herewith inclose as I did not judge them of sufficient importance to give your Lordship the trouble of perusing the Whole :—After this I told them that I should not think their answer Satisfactory, until the belts mentioned in their speech were delivered up, Which they promised to see strictly performed, & after renewing the Covt Chain, the Congress ended.

On this Congress I have only to observe that altho there is some cause to doubt of the friendship of the Senecas on the Ohio, & at Chenussio, for reasons formerly given, Yet I had not neither have I any reason to suspect the rest of the Senecas, or any other of the Confederate Nations Besides I know it to have been before the practise of those Nations more remote from us, & who are apprehensive of the Six nations, to propagate Stories much to the disadvantage of the Latter with a View to Exasperate us against them, and thereby draw them into their associations, and I am confident that if an opportunity offered I could give a demonstrating proof of their fidelity from the part they would take in our quarrells If required so to do.

I have always been intirely of your Lordships Opinion with regard to the advantages we may Expect from the jealousies subsisting between one Nation & another, and I have more than once, observed the like to your Lordship, I have been also allways averse to entering into any of their private Concerns.—It would therefore give me great pain could I have the least reason to accuse myself of deviateing from your Lordships sentiments, and my own so repeatedly Expressed, and I am persuaded it can be sufficiently made to appear that no part of my proceedings If they have been Justly Expressed in my pacquets, could have a tendency so contrary to the Political practise I have allways adopted,—Indeed it is extremely necessary & gives the Indians a favorable Idea of our justice & friendship to appear concerned at their private divisions & Differences & desirous to see them composed, but I

never interfere in any where his Majestys Interests, & the public tranquility is not materially concerned which was peculiarly the case in the affair of the Deputies sent to Scioto, where the chiefs of the most powerfull nations on the continent were assembled for purposes that were too Interesting to be overlooked, so that it appeared highly necessary to me that they sho^{d} know we were not ignorant of their designs, & that they sho^{d} be reprimanded for their past conduct, & cautioned ag^{t} any future undertakings, & the means by which this was ordered to be effected, as well as the agents made use of were in my Judgement, the best calculated for that purpose as well as for keeping up that Jealousy which contributes so much to our security. Those Depy^{s} are shortly expected home when I shall transmit the result of their Embassy, and I flatter myself that my long experience in these matters, & zeal to acquit myself as a usefull serv^{t} to the Crown will continue to me your Lordships favorable opinion of my Capacity, for the office I have the honor to hold, as after a series of successful services, nothing co^{d} be a more sensible mortification to me than the thought of having incurred your Lordships Censure. Could my authority extend to the redress of Grievances in any thing material we sho^{d} have much less apprehensions from the Indians, but as my Authority cannot be so far extended Your Lordship may rely on my doing every thing in my power for the Interests of the Crown & the public within the Limits prescribed to mee, and that faithfully according to the best of my Judgment.

The R^{t} honble The Earl of Hillsborough.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson hall Septr. 24th. 1771.

My Lord,

I am hopefull that the Motives which induce me to give you this trouble, will apologize for the Liberty I now taken in Introducing the Inclosed memorial & its worthy author to your Lordships knowledge.

The Rev^{d} M^{r}. Cha^{s}. Inglis one of the Established Clergy of the City of N York, a Gentleman of much real piety and

distinguished Abilities having lamented to me the State in which the Inds. in general are, and observed that there appeared not only a Religious, but a political necessity for the adopting some good System under the sanction of the Crown for the more effectual Christianizing them, I then & afterwards communicated my thoughts on the subject, in consequence of which he has drawn up the Meml. herewith transmitted, but with a View that it should be introduced in my name, flattering himself that it might intitle it to a more favorable reception,—This I could by no means allow of, for altho the Modesty and disinterested Zeal of Mr Inglis, did not Lead him to seek for any reputation to himself, tho' he eagerly wished for yr Lordships Patronage of the proposal, I thought it necessary that you should know the real author as well as his ingenious performance; which coincides with the sentiments & wishes of many persons of Consequence in this Country and from its object has a peculiar title to my recommendation, Independant of its particular merit which I humbly conceive must render it worthy the attention of Government.

Under these hopes I shall only add that as I understand the Revd. Dr. Cooper Presidt. of N York Colledge will have the honor to present this to your Lordship, I should be wanting in Friendship, if I omitted mine in addition to many other Testimonials of his worthy character & distinguished Genius which renders him an object of General Esteem in this province.

As the accts I have just received will occasion me to make a short Tour amst the Indians and to write on publick business within a little time, I have omitted Numbering this Letter from the peculiarity of its subjects for which I must again beg your Lordships Indulgence, at the same time assuring you that if I had not thought it worthy the attention of the Crown I should not have yielded to any other motives by giving your Lordship this Trouble.

I have the honor to be &c.

The Rt honble the Earl of Hillsborough.

LORD HILLSBOROUGH TO LORD WM. CAMPBELL.

Whitehall January 11th. 1772.

My Lord

I have received your Lordships Letter of the 18th of October 1771, & have laid it before the King, & have only to add, that it will be very agreeable to me if your Lordships choice of Mr. Cunningham to be Commissary for Indian Affairs in Nova Scotia shall be confirmed by Sir William Johnson, within whose Department it lyes to appoint to that office.

I am
My Lord
Your Lordships
Most obedient
Humble Servant

Lord William Campbell. Hillsborough.

SIR WM JOHNSON TO LORD HILLSBOROUGH.

Johnson hall April 4th. 1772

My Lord,

I was lately honored with your Lordships Letter No. 17. in answer to mine No. 16. since which I took the Liberty of addressing you by a few lines on a more private Subject; From that time I waited with much Impatience for the return of Thos King the Indn Chief, who with others went as Depys to the great Congress at Scioto, as I mentioned in my last Letter, but in October to my great Concern I received the disagreable news that Thos King died at Charles-Town S. Carolina after having discharged the Embassy committed to him This I considered as I still do, as a sensible disappointment because the fidelity of that Chief, Joyned to his Superior Capacity gave me good hopes of receiving a Circumstantial Accot of all Matters at his return, which I could not Expect so perfect from the rest of his party;—After waiting Some Months More, I found that his party who had taken shipping at Chas Town were Landed at Philadelphia, and in Feby the Greatest part of them with many others came to my House, here I found that Anawaske, the Next in Authority to Thos King had died on shipboard and that another was so Afflicted with a

lameness that he could not as yet make me a Visit. I was therefore obliged to Content myself with such Accot. as the Young Men who survived could give, who after laying before me a Considerable Number of Pipes, belts &ca began to repeat the proceedings of Thos King, first with the Shawanese at Fort Pitt on his way to Scioto, where these people assured him that the *Wawiaghtonos*, wd shortly send Depys to the 6 Nats & myself to sollicit a Continuance of Friendship. They next recounted that upon Thos Kings arrival at Scioto he assembled all the Nations, and first addressed the Shawanese whom he upbraided for retiring so far down the Ohio, & for Confederating with people unmindfull of their Engagements, and in short repeated to each of the Nations faithfully all that he had been charged with by the 6 Nats. & myself.—The Shawanese answered, That the 6 Nations had long seemed to neglect them, & to disregard the Promise they formerly made of giving them the Lands between the Ohio & the Lakes: That thus distressed they went on board of their Canoes determined to go whither soever fortune shod drive them, but were Stopped (many Years since) at Scioto by the 6. Nations who shook them by the heads & fixed them there charging them to live in peace with the English, but that to their great surprise they soon after saw the 6. Nations In Arms & Coasting along the Lakes with the English, [i e assisting us & acting offensively last war,] That when the War ended the ill treatment of the 6 Nations increased, to whom thereupon they sent Belts, to Strengthen their Union but that they supposed Agastarax the Seneca Chief who recd them did not make them public, for that they never recd any Answer thereto; The Shawanese & the rest then shewed some Emblematical belts representing themselves & the Ilinois Indians with 10 Confederate Nations between them, they also delivered a belt from the Chickesaws who promised to be guided by the 6 Nations. Thos King then after accusing them of Misrepresentation Ansd. them by a full detail of all their hostile Acts, as also of those of the Powtewatamis, Kickapows &ca Concluding with telling them that He & the other Depys were come to restore them to their senses & strengthen the Union of those who affected the English Alliance by opening a Road to the Council Fire at Onondaga, & from thence to my House for the use of those who chose to live at

peace & be happy, but that the first Nation that shod obstruct the same or look another way wd assuredly be punished by the rest. To this they made reply on sevl belts &ca excusing themselves on various pretences, ending with strong assurances of their pacific intentions & promising faithfully to abide by all that was recommended to them & forth with to bring all their Confederates into the same Sentiments. The Cherokees particularly Thanked the 6 Nats. & myself, for the peace they had obtained in 1768. whereby they began once more to enjoy themselves, And the Chief of the Creeks who met them at Gohi, Expressed much satisfaction at seeing the Deps promised to make use of the Road they had opened & to adhere stedfastly to his engagements. After this & many other matters, The Catawbas escorted the Deps to Charles Town, where Thos King died, & the rest proceeded as before mentioned. This, My Lord is a brief Summary of the report made to me by Nickaroondase the principal Survivor, the 2 Chiefs being dead, & one of the principal Men yet behind from which & some farther Conversations I have held with the Deprs who returned It appears to me that the Shawanese who to my knowledge Grasped at the Lands on both sides of the Ohio, tho' at the late conference they only mention the North side repenting of the Sale of the Lands on the South of that River had sent belts to the Senecas to Stir up the 6 Nations to disavow their own act, propogating at the same time reports which might tend to alieniate us from the latter; That Agaustarax & his Tribe approved of this, but that the rest of the Confederacy would not give ear to it, is evident from the Speech made to the Deprs at Scioto, that thereupon Agastarax Sent belts to the other Nations to set them up, which gave rise to the Story of the Seneca Plot & the belts sent by Agastarax a little before his death. These belts I am assured will be speedily delivered those who promised to see the same performed only waiting the return of the Deps. from the southward, I have also recd Notice that another Genl. meeting is appointed to be held at Scioto, which the Inds in that Quarter declare to be intended to Communicate the Sentiments of the 6 Nats. to those who were not present at the last Conference, & to take measures in consequence of their engagements, however I have already taken care that those who go from the Northwd in consequence of

their Summons are more to be depended on, & I shall have a strict eye over their proceedings.

I ought to remark that as amst other fallacious pretences the Shawnese have spoke of the Sale to the Crown extending to Ohio, that it is not of that part which for the sevl reasons I formerly gave I ventured to Continue from Kanhawa to the Cherokee River, but their pretended objection is to the part above Kanhawa, to which I was directed to purchase by his Majestys Orders & indeed no other part could Affect them; but even this is a Weak pretence, for the North side of the River which they still occupy is more than they have any Title to, having been often moved from place to place by the Six Nations, and never having any right of Soil there, so that the admitting of any part of their Title as Just, wd introduce a variety of other Claims as weakly founded which wd create a Genl confusion in the Colonies.—I considered the Defection of the Kickapous & Potewatamis under the Genl denomination of their Confederacy of whose fidelity I have but a slender opinion; Their Murders & Robberies are however much owing to the Jealousy of French Traders, & to that lawless Colony of that nation on the Wabache, who are daily increasing in numbers, & whilst they particularly hate us as English, are really enemies to all Governmt These men shod If possible be removed, but possessing the esteem of the neighbourg Indians and acquiring a Confidence from their remote Situation; I believe it will be a very difficult task to affect it completely, or in a proper manner. I understand that Genl Gage has this in View, and your Lordship may be assured that I shall most chearfully Obey his Majesties Orders by Cooperating with Genl Gage in this or any other measure which the Kings service may require.

The Complaints made daily by the Inds of the Abuses and Irregularity of Trade are many & Greivous & will doubtless be made use of by them in case of a defection in any Quarter, The Injuries which our own Traders sustain to the South Westward thro' the Superior Influence & Artifices of the French, who engross the Comerce of that Country is likewise worthy serious attention, for all which there appears no prospect of remedy, as the Commissrs did not meet last Decr as was expected, neither according to the best accots that I have is there any likelyhood that they will do

so, or if met that any thing effectual will be agreed to from the different Interests, & Systems of policy prevailing in each Colony which must ever prove an obstructn to establishments that depend on a perfect union of Sentiments & on proportional Quota's of Expense, I am persuaded that such Negligence in a matter of Genl Concern could not have been foreseen by Governmt And I am happy to find that my sentiments correspond with those of your Lordship in the Necessity there is for a redress of such Grievances as must endanger the public Tranquility.—I never Covetted, neither shall I ever wish for Authority, but where the public Service requires it, to reach abuses that may not otherwise be easily removed & The attention which the prest duties of my office requires wd rather Incline me to Wish that these Important points could be effected in any other Channell, of which I Express my doubts with real concern.

The Event of the Public Negociations in wch the Inds propose to be Occupied the ensuing Season, are for many reasons as yet extremely doubtfull, they require to be strickly enquired into & I shall give them my whole attention, Highly encouraged by the favorable Sentiments with which yr Lordship has honored my proceedings, I cannot sufficiently express my Gratitude upon that occasion; but by a perseverance in my attention to his Majestys Interests & those Duties wch have procured me so flatterg a distinction.

I am also much obliged to your Lordship for the Confirmation of the most agreeable news of the Recovery of his Royl Highness the D. of Gloucester, an Event which so nearly regards his Majesties domestic felicity, & which is so interesting to every faithfull Subject affords me the most sensible Satisfaction.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord &ca

The Right Honble
The Earl of Hillsborough.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Johnson hall June 29th 1772.

My Lord,

Since I had the honor of writing to your Lordship my Letter N°. 17. of the 4th of April concerning the Embassy to the Southward & death of Thos. King, Chief of the Deputies, The Six Nations have sent Delegates from every Nation to attend the second General Congress at Scioto, as mentioned in my last, where my Deputy is gone to be present, Whilst my Resident on the Ouabache has Instructions how to govern himself on any event that may arise from the intended Negociations, till when we were likely to have remaind in a state of suspence; but for a late unlucky Transaction the particulars of which (as it may be productive of very ill consequences) It is my duty to lay before your Lordship.

A certain man of the name of Ramsay who formerly lived amongst the Indians, and was by Capt Brown late Commands officer at Niagara sent away to Quebec, to prevent his doing farther mischief amongst them, has since found means to get a small cargo of goods upon Credit with which he went to Lake Erie where he Traded for some time with the Chipeweighs & Misisagas at a considerable distance from any Fort, or place of Inspection or Controul, but being of a disagreable Temper, and probably endeavoring to over reach them, they warned him to remove, otherwise they would maltreat him, of which however he took no notice but seemed to set them at defiance which shortly after occasioned a quarrel between him & some of them who were in Liquor, of whom he killed three; upon this he withdrew to another place on Lake Erie apprehensive of their Resentment, and last April a party of the Misisagas called at his Trading hut where they drank very plentifully, and as is usual with them on all such occasions quarelled, and threatened him as he says with Death to which he adds that they laid hands on him & bound him, however he freed himself, and killed three men, one woman, and an Infant, and as an aggravation of the same took off their scalps which he brought into Niagara, where he was imediately confined by order of the Commanding officer,—This accot is partly taken from his own confession to that officer, and from the accot given

of it by his Brother and others, before the story was new modelled as it has been since to favor him,—To Excuse his having scalped them which with Indians is considered as a National Act, and Declaration of War he says he was told that War had been actually commenced between the English and Indians, and that in his hurry & confusion the Woman & Child were killed,—but it appears clearly to me, and it is likewise the opinion of his Excelly General Gage, that he has been guilty of these murders thro' Wantonness & Cruelty. For, in the first place the Indians whenever they meditate mischief carefully avoid Liquor, whereas it appears that they were very much disguised, and tho' apt to use Threats & quarrel at such times, yet incapable of putting them in execution, as is evident from the number he killed of them, and in the next place he could have but little Temptation to kill the Woman, and not the least inducement to murder the Child but what has arose from sentiments of Barbarity superior to the most Cruel Savage, who seldom puts an Infant to death.—The General has directed him to be sent to Canada to be tryed, but, (as is usual on such occasions) the Interest which his Creditors will make with those who are his Jurors, and the prejudices of the Commonalty against Indians will probably prove the means of his being acquitted, altho' he makes use of threats that he will do much more mischief when enlarged. The nation imediately sent down 15 Deputies to lay the matter before me, & to assure me that they had given strict orders to prevent any sudden act of Resentment, and that they relied on our Justice in affording them such satisfaction as the Case required, as well as in preventing the like for the future, to which end they (after complaining much of the want of any Regulation for Trade) requested that Traders might not be suffered to go where they pleased but confined to the Posts and there duly Inspected.—I enlarged much on the circumstance alledged by Ramsay, that the Inds. threatened his Life In which case I observed that not only the English Laws, but the Laws of Nature justified his defending himself, and after adding every thing I thought prudent or necessary I covered (according to Custom) the Graves of the 8 Persons whom he killed, and dismissed the Deputies with a large & handsome present, and with proper messages & belts to their Nation.—The Indians at parting

expressed themselves very favorably, and I am willing to hope that the affair may be accommodated, nevertheless I am so sensible of their Resentments that I have judged it necessary to be thus particular, because the Chipeweighs and Misisagas, are by far the most numerous & powerfull nation with whom we have any connection in North America, being second only to the Sioux in numbers, and from their situation capable of affording great Encouragem^{t}. to Trade, or putting an entire end to it, nor could it be expected that others wo^{d}. enter warmly into our alliance when they considered the Cause of their defection,—The Traders are all come into Niagara &c^{a} to avoid the Resentment they apprehend from the Indians, I have allready described what may reasonably be apprehended, whilst I use every endeavor in my power, to prevent its being realized ; but I leave your Lordship to judge how difficult a task it is to Calm the passions of Incensed Savages, and to keep them faithfull to engagements, whilst they find themselves exposed to the Licentious outrages of our own people against which no remedy is as yet provided.

The R^{t}. hon^{ble}

The Earl of Hillsborough.

LORD HILLSBOROUGH TO SIR W^{M}. JOHNSON.

Whitehall, July 1st 1772.

Sir,

I have rec^{d} your Dispatch N^{o} 17 and have laid it before the King.

Had any thing of moment been transacted at the great Congress at Sioto, the Deaths of the Principal Indian Chiefs, upon whom you relied for a faithful Report of the Proceedings at that Congress, would have been unfortunate ; but, if the Accounts given by Nicaroondase are true, very little of Importance was transacted, and the whole seems to have ended, as such Meetings generally have done, with Excuses on the part of the Indians for past Irregularities, and with Promises, which are seldom or never kept, of behaving better for the future.

I must confess to you that, after the very full Assurances I had received, that all the Indians concerned in the Treaty at Fort

Stanwix had fully pledged themselves for the Cession to His Majesty of the Lands in Virginia to the West and South West of the Allegany Mountains, it is a very great Surprise to me now to find that the Shawanese are at least dissatisfied with, if not disposed to disavow that Cession, so far as it regards the Lands on the Ohio above the Kanawah.

Every Day discovers more and more the fatal Policy of departing from the Line prescribed by the Proclamation of 1763; and the Extension of it on the ground of a Cession made by the Six Nations, of Lands, their Right to which, is denied by other Nations equally powerful and more numerous, instead of being attended with Advantage to this Kingdom and Security to the Colonies, is now likely to have no other Consequence than that of giving a greater Scope to distant Settlements, which I conceive to be inconsistent with every true Principle of Policy, and which I clearly see from your last Letter, will most probably have the Effect to produce a general Indian War, the Expense whereof will fall upon this Kingdom.

The King's Commands have been already signified to General Gage for the Removal of the French and other vagabond Traders on the Ouabache, and His Majesty having also approved of an Indian Officer being established in that part of the Country, you will probably before this reaches you have received General Gage's Instructions to you for that purpose.

You well know, Sir, what are my sentiments with regard to the Regulation of the Indian Trade, but as the plan which I had the Honor, in Conjunction with the rest of my Brethren at the Board of Trade, to suggest for that purpose (and which I am vain enough to think would have operated as a Remedy to the Enormities which have been complained of,) was not adopted, it must depend upon each Colony to take care of its own interests in that respect.

I am,
Sir,
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
HILLSBOROUGH.

Sir William Johnson Bart

ORDER IN COUNCIL.

AT THE COURT AT ST JAMES'S THE 14TH DAY OF AUGUST 1772.

(L S) Present,

THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY in Council

WHEREAS there was this day read at the Board a Report from the Right Honourable the Lords, of the Committee of Council for Plantation Affairs dated the first of last month in the words following Viz.

" "YOUR MAJESTY having been pleased by Your Order in Council " of the 24th of May 1770 to refer unto this Committee the humble " Memorial of Thomas Walpole Benjamin Franklin John Sargent " and Samuel Wharton on Behalf of themselves and their Asso- " ciates, Setting forth that the Memorialists and others presented a " Petition to your Majesty in Council praying a Grant of Lands " in America (parcel of the Lands purchased by the Government " of the Indians) in Consideration of a price to be paid in purchase " of the same; that the said Petition was referred by Order of " Council to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations; " that the memorialists in pursuance of a Suggestion, which arose " upon Consideration of the said Petition at that Board, of making " a Purchase of a larger Tract of Land sufficient for a Separate " Government were directed to apply to the Lords Commissioners " of the Treasury in respect to the Price to be paid for the purchase " of such Tract and the Quit Rent to be reserved thereon; that " the Memorialists in Consequence thereof did on the 4th day of " January last present to the said Lords Commissioners of the " Treasury a memorial and Paper containing a description of the " Lands they were desirous of Purchasing as follows, Vizt

" " " Beginning on the South side of the River Ohio opposite to " " the mouth of Sioto, thence Southerly through the pass in " " the Ouasioto Mountains, to the South side of the said Moun " " tains, thence along the side of the said Mountains North " " Easterly to the Fork of the Great Kenhawa, made by the " " junction of Green Briar and new River, thence along the said " " Green Briar River, on the Easterly side of the same unto the " " Head or termination of the North Easterly branch thereof, " " thence Easterly to the Allegheny mountains, thence along the

" " said Allegheny mountains, to Lord Fairfax's Line, thence along
" " the same to the Spring head of the North Branch of the River
" " Powtomack, thence along the Western Boundary Line of the
" " Province of maryland to the Southern Boundary Line of the
" " Province of Pensilvania, thence along the said Southern
" " Boundary Line of the Province of Pensilvania to the End
" " thereof, thence along the Western Boundary Line of the said
" " province of Pensilvania until the same shall strike the River
" " Ohio, Thence down the said River Ohio, to the place of
" " beginning"

" And for which they offer to pay the Sum of £10,460–7–3
" being the whole of the money paid by Government for all the
" Lands purchased of the Six Nations at Fort Stanwix; and the
" Memorialists did further offer to pay a quit rent of 2 Shillgs for
" every 100 acres of cultivatable Land within the said tract,
" praying an exemption from the payment of the said Quit rent for
" the space of 20 years, but offering to pay the said purchase-
" money to the order of the Treasury; That the said Lords
" Commissioners of the Treasury, after long & full deliberation
" had thereupon, did on the 7th day of April last acquaint the
" Memorialists that the Board had no objection to accepting the
" proposition made by the Memorialists for the said tract of land,
" with respect to the purchase money & quit rent to be paid for the
" same, if it should be thought adviseable by those Departments
" of Government to whom it belongs to judge of the propriety of
" the Grant both in point of policy & justice, that the Grant should
" be made—In consequence whereof the Memorialists humbly
" renew this application to your Majesty that a Grant of the said
" Lands may be made to them, reserving therein to all persons
" their just & legal rights to any parts or parcel of said Lands
" which may be comprehended within the tract prayed for by the
" Memorialists—

" The Lords of Committee in obedience to your Majesty's said
" order of reference this day took the said Memorial into consi-
" deration, & having received the opinion of the Lords Commis-
" sioners for Trade & Plantations, & heard what the Memorialists
" had to offer thereupon, do agree humbly to Report to your
" Majesty that it appears to this Committee, upon full & mature

" consideration of the Evidence which the petitioners have produced " in support of their petition to your Majesty for a Grant of Lands " in America (parcel of the Lands purchased by the Government " of the Indians) the most material part of which evidence was " not produced at the Board of Trade

1st. " That the Lands in question have been for some time past, " & now are in an actual state of settling, numbers of families " to a very considerable amount removing thither continually from " your Majesty's other Colonies:

2d. " That the Lands in question do not lye beyond the reach " of advantageous intercourse with this Kingdom, it appearing " from divers policies of insurance laid before this Committee " that sundry commodities the produce of those Lands are exported " from thence to a considerable amount, & Evidence having been " likewise produced of a person being employed to collect & ship " from hence a cargo of British Merchandize for the use & " Consumption of the said Settlers and the natives: And it is " the opinion of this Committee, in case your Majesty shall be " graciously pleased to make a Grant of any part of these Lands, " that the petitioners are best intitled to such mark of your " Majestys Royal Favour, in regard they are the first who have " made proposals for the purchase from Government of Lands in " your Majesty's Plantations in North America, and have agreed " to take the whole expence of the Civil Government on them- " selves: But the Lords of the Committee submit it as their " opinion, at the same time that they recommended to your Majesty " to comply with the prayer of the Petitioners that orders should " be sent to the Superintendant for Indian affairs to apprize the " Tribes of the Six Nations and their Confederates of such " intended Settlement; and that the Lords Commissioners for " Trade & plantations should be directed to prepare a proper " Clause or Clauses to be inserted in the Grant, saving & reserving " to the respective Occupiers all prior claims to Lands within the " limits of the said Grant, whether derived from equitable or legal " titles; and further strictly prohibiting the petitioners & their " associates, & their & each & every of their heirs & assigns from " settling, occupying or improving any part of the lands lying

"between the Line which has been settled by Treaty as well "with the Tribes of the Six Nations and their Confederates, as "with the Cherokee Indians, as the boundary Line between Your "Majesty's Territories & the hunting Grounds of the Indians, & "the Line proposed by the Petitioners beginning on the south side "of the River Ohio opposite to the mouth of Sioto & running "thence southerly thro' the pass in the Ouasioto mountains to the "south side of the said mountains But that all that part of the said "Lands comprehended between the said two Lines shall remain "wholly unsettled and unoccupied by the petitioners & their "associates, & each & every of their Heirs & assigns, until such "time as your Majestys allowance & permission for the settling "and occupying the same shall be first obtained.

"And Lastly the Lords of the Committee are of Opinion, to "the end that the several persons actually settled, or that may "hereafter settle on the Lands in question, may be more properly "& quietly governed, that the said Settlement and District should "be erected into a Separate Government in such form and manner "as to your Majesty's Wisdom shall seem meet, and under such "other restrictions & regulations as the Lords Commissioners for "Trade and Plantations shall advise."

His Majesty taking the said Report into Consideration was pleased with the advice of His Privy Council to approve of what was therein proposed, and accordingly to give the necessary directions to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations for carrying the same into execution—And His Majesty is hereby pleased to order that the Right Hon^ble^ the Earl of Dartmouth, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, do receive His Majesty's Pleasure for directing His Majesty's Superintendant for Indian affairs to apprize the Chiefs of the Six Nations & their Confederates of His Majesty's Intention to form a Settlement upon the Lands purchased of them by His Majesty in 1768.

Signed

Steph: Cottrell.

EXTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF A CONGRESS WITH THE CHIEFS OF THE SIX NATIONS

HELD AT JOHNSON HALL APRIL THE 17TH. 1773.

But, Brother, we must observe to you, and we request it may be seriously considered that the misconduct of these Nations (that is to say, those to the South West) is much owing to the English themselves, for these nations were never hearty, and some of them, not even pretended friends to the English. Yet the English Traders, and also the French have of late years rambled in great numbers all over their Country for the sake of Gain, and are but too often guilty of frauds which inflame their Resentment.

In the French time, their Traders rambled in that manner: they were often plundered, and killed; but the French did not resent it, knowing it was their own faults,—and we must again remark, as we have often done lately, that there is no certain way of preventing this, but by having fixed Posts, and proper Regulations for the Traders. Whilst these subsisted there were seldom any Outrages, the Indians were better pleased, and the Traders had Profit enough. We heartily wish you would consider these things, as matters of great Importance to the general Peace.

A Belt of 7 Rows.

BROTHER.

When we first saw the White People, and fastened the Ship to the great Tree, the Band of our Union, was a fair Trade: when we strengthened our Alliance with the English, and fastened the Ship with an Iron Chain, which was afterwards made of Silver, Trade was our mutual object, and in most subsequent Treaties it was provided that Trade should be plentiful, and that we should not be cheated. the places of Trade were few, and the Traders well known. the like Promise was made us, whenever Canada should be reduced.—for a time it went on pretty well, but of late, the Traders go about where they please, and sell at the most extravagant Rates, besides following us to our Hunting Grounds to take advantage of our People, by means of the Liquor they bring with them. Of this, all the Indians complain; for as they live by Hunting, it becomes a more heavy Grievance to them, than it would do to others. We have often complained of this, but we

find no Redress, and therefore if these repeated Impositions obstruct our good Intentions, the fault is not ours. Brother, we beg you will consider our case, so as that the Governors concerned may do what has been promised; we must likewise solicit the favor of the General, that both he, and you may lay our Hardships before the King who I trust will relieve us.—In this Hope we now on behalf of all our Confederacy, renew, strengthen, and brighten the Covenant Chain,—and the Senecas particularly assure you that they, and all their Dependants, do now take hold of it, and brighten the same, firmly resolving to contribute all their Endeavors, in conjunction with the rest of the Confederacy, to keep it bright, hoping that you will be assisting therein, for our mutual Interest, and the Preservation of Peace.

A large white Covenant Chain Belt with
12 Squares, 11 Rows.

To which Sir William answered—

Brothers.

I am well acquainted with the nature, and Terms of your first Treaties with the English, and that Trade was always considered as an article of much importance; neither can I find that it was ever withheld from you.

After the Reduction of Canada it was greatly enlarged by the addition of many new Traders, whereby Goods were plenty, and cheap. among such a number, there are doubtless some that will deceive you, especially so long as you continue your Passion for that Liquor which is the Source of so many Evils. There is however no doubt, that when the Colonies are agreed as to the nature of the Regulations, provision will be made against the Abuses you complain of—and in the mean time I recommend it to you to endeavor at reforming yourselves by a more moderate use of that Liquor in which case the Traders will bring less into your Country, and you will be more on your guard against their frauds, whilst I use my endeavors, as I have hitherto done to procure you the Salutary Establishments you require—Your case has been already fully laid before the Governors, and I can assure you that the Governor of this Province, and those of the other Colonies that are concerned in the Indian Trade, are heartily disposed to promote the Regulations.—the General who commands

the Army, is also much your friend, and as he is shortly to go over the *Great Lake*, he will I persuade myself recommend these points to the Great King, who is heartily disposed to protect, and favor all faithfull Indians. I thank you for your renewing and brightening the ancient Chain of Friendship, and particularly, in that the Senecas are so wise as to take a firm Hold of it. Whilst they value themselves & their confederates, I hope they will retain it firmly; and I expect, that as the *Western Door*, they will hereafter take care that they admit nothing among them that may give offence to those in the *middle*, or at the *East end* of the Chain, but hearken to good advice, and follow it. To promote all this, I do now, on behalf of the Great King, and his subjects, renew, strengthen and brighten this Chain, assuring you that it shall be held fast, and kept bright, on the part of the English, and that it shall last for ever, if you do your parts to preserve it. I hope that you have too much sense of its value to expose it to any danger, and that you will Treasure up my advice as essential to your own Happiness.

A large Covenant Chain Belt
13 Rows black, with white Squares.

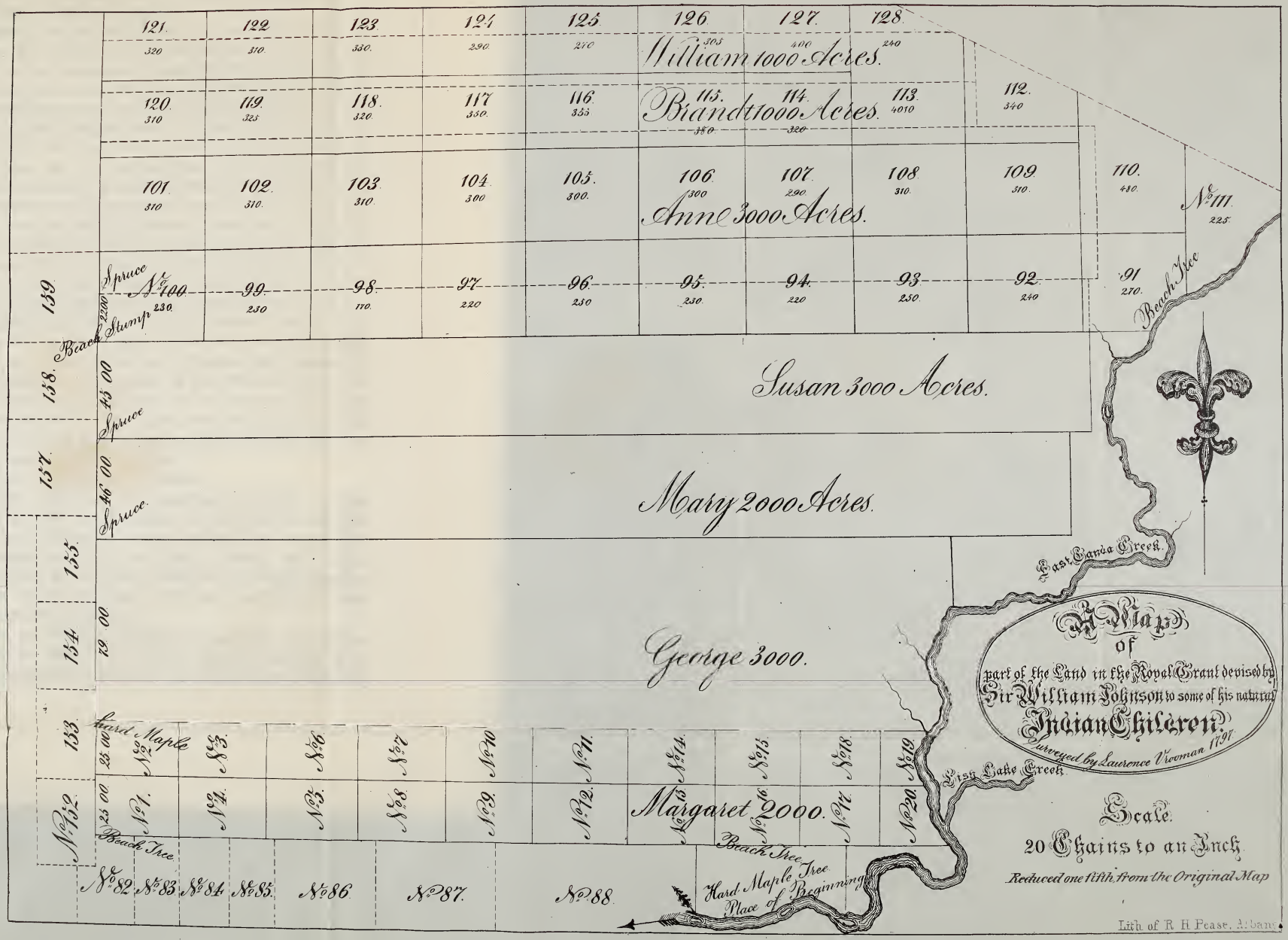
A true Copy from the Records
Examined by Mr Rd Shuckburgh Secry. for Ind. Affairs.

SPEECH OF DECHARIHOGA CHIEF OF THE CANAJOHARIES TO SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON.

ON MONDAY THE 11TH JULY 1774 A FEW HOURS BEFORE SIR WM'S DECEASE & IN PRESENCE OF THE SIX NATIONS.

Brother

It is with Pain I am under the necessity of Complaining again against that old Rogue, the old Disturber of our village, George Klock. You are long acquainted with his Artifices, and evil Conduct, and you have often assured us you had applied for Redress; but whatever is the Reason, we never yet Obtained any Satisfaction, and we begin to be doubtful whether the English will afford it to us, for which reason we are driven to the necessity of mentioning our Grievances to you in the Presence of the whole


121 320
122 310
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William 1000 Acres.
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113 4010
112 340
Brandt 1000 Acres.
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109 310
110 480
No 111 225
Anne 3000 Acres.
139
Spruce
No 100 230
99 250
98 170
97 220
96 250
95 230
94 220
93 250
92 240
91 270
Beach Tree
Beach Stump 230
138
45 00
Spruce
Susan 3000 Acres.
137
46 00
Spruce
Mary 2000 Acres.
155
154
19 00
George 3000.
153
25 00
Hard Maple
No 2
No 3
No 6
No 7
No 10
No 11
No 14
No 15
No 18
No 19
No 152
25 00
No 1
No 4
No 5
No 8
No 9
No 12
No 13
No 16
No 17
No 20
Margaret 2000.
Beach Tree
No 82
No 83
No 84
No 85
No 86
No 87
No 88
East Canada Creek
A Plan of part of the Land in the Royal Grant devised by Sir William Johnson to some of his natural Indian Children.
Surveyed by Laurence Vrooman 1791
First Lake Creek
Beach Tree
Hard Maple Tree
Place of Beginning
Scale.
20 Chains to an Inch.
Reduced one fifth from the Original Map
Lith of R H Pease, Albany

Confederacy, that they who know our Rank, may espouse our Cause, as it is their duty to do, and convince the English that we have ffriends, and deserve Attention.

Brother—I will not take up your time with telling you, & your Brothers here present, the many Artifices he has made use of to Cheat us of our Lands, and to create Divisions among ourselves. I shall only mention his last actions. This *evil Spirit*, last Winter by his Cunning, seduced one of our foolish young ffellows to Steal away with him to England, where he exposed him for a shew, and Cheated him out of his Money. Klock has since Stolen home like a Rogue as he went out, and when we had notice of it, and applied to him to sign the Release, (which all the rest did) of the Lands w^ch^ he Stole, he appointed a time for it, but when we came to his House, and brought a Justice of Peace to be present, he refused Admittance to him & us, and has since ran away, and propagated a Story that some of us threatened his Life. It is true, Brother, that the man he Cheated went and took some of his own Money, and probably, some of our young ffellows after his own evil Example, might have used angry Threats to induce him to sign the Release, but we disavow it, as we do all his falsehoods, and are ready to wait for Justice. It has been often promised, but never afforded us. We beg that the great Men who manage the White People, may obtain Justice for us, and cause him to sign the Deed, and let us alone,—And if we thought this would still be done, we would willingly wait awhile patiently, otherwise, we cannot answer for the Consequences.

To which Sir William Johnson answ^d^.

That they need not have mentioned this Matter to their Confederacy, who had no business with it,—that he would again lay the Matter before Government, and use all his endeavors for their satisfaction,—that they Should patiently wait without attempting any act of Violence, which wou'd be highly Resented, and that he was Authorized to tell them that Klock's Conduct was disagreeable to the King.

When Sir William's immediate Deputy Col. Guy Johnson reasumed the affairs of the Congress after the Interment of S^r^. W^m^ the Canajoharies reminded him of their Speech concerning

Klock, and were answered with Assurances that the same Should be laid before Government.

Taken from the Records G Johnson
Super Intendt of Indn. Affairs.

COL. GUY JOHNSON TO LT GOV. COLDEN.

[From N. Y. Col. MSS.]

Guy Park Augst 2d. 1774.

Sir,

Since I had the honor of Writing to you last, I have received his Excellcy Genl Gages Orders Appointing me to the Superintendency of Indian affairs till his Majestys pleasure is known, concerning which he has Likewise wrote to the Secrety of State as Sir Wm Johnson had done agreeable to the desire of the Indians sometime before his death;—

Having been much indisposed for some days past it was not sooner in my power to write to you on a matter complained of by the Indians at the late Congress respecting the conduct of their old Antagonist Geo: Klock; It would take up too much of your time to enter at present into the relation of his repeated Offences, these were highly aggravated by the circumstance of his seducing one of their People to accompany him last Winter to England and Exhibiting him as a Show, but Lord Dartmouth having sent in quest of *Klock*, he returned hastily to America, & defrauded the Indian of his Money on the Passage, of this the Indian complained & went (with some others) to his House where they took part of that Cash away, and insisted on his signing a Release for part of the Lands of their Village included in the Patent of *Van Horne and Livingston* which all the other Proprietors had long since done,—He at length promised to comply and appointed a time, but when their Chiefs attended for that purpose with a Justice of the Peace, they were refused admittance, & Shortly after he went to Albany from whence he transmitted an Affidavit of his Danger with a View to have the Canajoharee Indians Indicted by the Grand jury, 'tho' Sir Wm Johnson had given them a strict Caution against offering him any Insult, promising that the Affair should

be laid before Government as it had been before, tho' without effect, he having refused to Execute the Release,

Klock has since returned to his House where he keeps close, so that the Indians have nothing to expect from his Justice, & thro' repeated disappointments are in doubt of relief from Government, this has induced some of their People to throw out threats, which I have hitherto prevented them from putting into execution, but the Neighbours are much alarmed & have lately proposed to Petition your Honor, requesting that he may be compelled to satisfy the Indians, or that some step be taken for freeing the Neighborhood from the apprehensions occasioned by his quarrel.— The Copy of the Speech made by the Conajoharees which I now enclose, will explain their sentiments, but I am concerned least some accident should happen as I can't see how they can be relieved, & he now gives out that he has Mortgaged, or sold the Lands in dispute. I could however wish I was enabled to promise them some relief, whilst I am endeavoring to prevent mischief, as their public complaint to the rest has made it a matter of serious concern.

I had the pleasure to conclude the Treaty (which was interrupted by the death of your Worthy friend Sir Will^{m} Johnson) in a satisfactory manner, and Deputies are sent from each of the Nations to accomodate the Breach to the Southward, but those Tribes who took up Arms there, are using all their influence to form a strong Association there, which it shall be my utmost endeavors to prevent by seperating their Interests.

I shall be glad to be honored with a Line on the subject of this Letter, and I beg Leave to assure you of the perfect Esteem with which I am Sir,

Your most Obedient and
most Humble Servt
G Johnson

Sir Jn^{o} Johnson offers
his best respects.

The Honble
L^{t} Governor Colden.

MISSING PAPERS.

*** On the 16th April, 1801, seven Bundles of Sir Wm. Johnson's papers were deposited in the Secretary's office, with the list of the contents of each Bundle. What remain of these MSS. are now published, except the Journals of Indian proceedings, some powers of attorney and a few other legal papers.

In comparing what has been preserved with the original list, on file, the following appear to be missing:

Letter from the Board of Trade to Sir Wm. Johnson,..... 2 Dec. 1755
Examination of Margaret Williams,..... 8 Dec. 1756
Letter from Sec'y Pownall to Sir Wm. Johnson,..... 22 Dec. 1756
" Board of Trade to Sir Wm Johnson, (2 *Copies,*)..... 10 March 1757
Examination of John Morris,..... 27 Aug. 1757
Letter from Capt. Wraxal to Sir Wm. Johnson,..... 3 May 1759
" Comy. Genl. Leake to Sir Wm. Johnson,..... 7 Aug. 1759
" Col. Eyre to Sir Wm. Johnson,..... 14 Aug. 1759
" Warren Johnson,..... 15 Oct. 1759
" Mrs. Cosby to Sir Wm. Johnson,..... 7 Feb. 1760
" Sir Wm. Johnson to Lord Hillsborough,..... 15 Feb. 1767
" Genl. Gage to Sir Wm. Johnson,..... 5 Apr. 1767
" Capt. Maturin to " ..... 13 Apr. 1767
" Genl. Gage to " ..... 17 Apr. 1767
" " to " ..... 4 May 1767
" " to " ..... 11 May 1767
" Ld Hillsborough to " ..... 13 May 1767
" Genl. Gage to " ..... 1 June 1767
" Capt. Maturin to " ..... 3 June 1767
" Genl. Gage to " ..... 28 June 1767
" " to " ..... 12 July 1767
" " to " ..... 20 July 1767
" " to " ..... 7 Sept. 1767
" " to " ..... 14 Sept. 1767
" Sir Wm. Johnson to Genl. Gage,..... 3 Oct. 1767
" Genl. Gage to Sir Wm. Johnson,..... 4 Oct. 1767
" Genl. Gage to Sir Wm. Johnson, (2 *Copies,*)..... 9 Nov. 1767
" Lord Hillsborough to " ..... 23 Jany. 1768
" " to " ..... 12 Mch. 1768
" James Jeffries, Esq. to " ..... 3 May 1768
" Lord Hillsborough to " ..... 13 Aug. 1768
" Sir Wm. Johnson to James Jeffries, Esq.,..... 18 Nov. 1768
" Lord Hillsborough to Sir Wm. Johnson,..... 12 Dec. 1768
" " to " ..... 4 Jany. 1769
" Lt. Gov. Colden to " ..... 10 Jany. 1769
" Sir Wm. Johnson to Lt. Gov. Colden,..... 26 Feb. 1769
" Lord Hillsborough to Sir Wm. Johnson,..... 24 Mch. 1769
Sir Wm. Johnson to Lord Hillsborough,..... 17 May 1769
Sec'y Pownall to Sir Wm. Johnson,..... 26 June 1769
" Lord Hillsborough to " ..... 5 Aug. 1769
" Sec'y Pownall to " ..... 6 Sept. 1769
" Lt. Gov. Colden to " ..... 23 Sept. 1769
" Lt. Gov. Colden to " ..... 5 Nov. 1769

Proposals by Thos. Hutchins for publishing a Map of the Interior of N. America.

Letter from Lord Hillsborough to Sir Wm. Johnson,..... 15 Nov. 1769
" " to " ..... 17 Jany. 1770
" " to " ..... 18 Jany. 1770
" Lt. Gov. Colden to " ..... 22 Apr. 1770
" " to " ..... 28 Sept. 1770
" Lord Hillsborough to " (2 *Copies,*).. 3 Oct. 1770
" " to " ..... 15 Nov. 1770
" " to " ..... 9 Dec. 1770
Speech of Oneida Indians to Lord Dunmore,. ..... 31 Dec. 1770
Letter from Lord Hillsborough to Sir Wm. Johnson,..... 4 May 1771
" " to " ..... 4 Dec. 1771

As the files of the Colonial MSS. in the State Department are now in progress of arrangement in order to be bound, and catalogued, persons happening to have any of the above papers are respectfully requested to return them, addressed, under cover, to the Secretary of State, Albany, N. Y.

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